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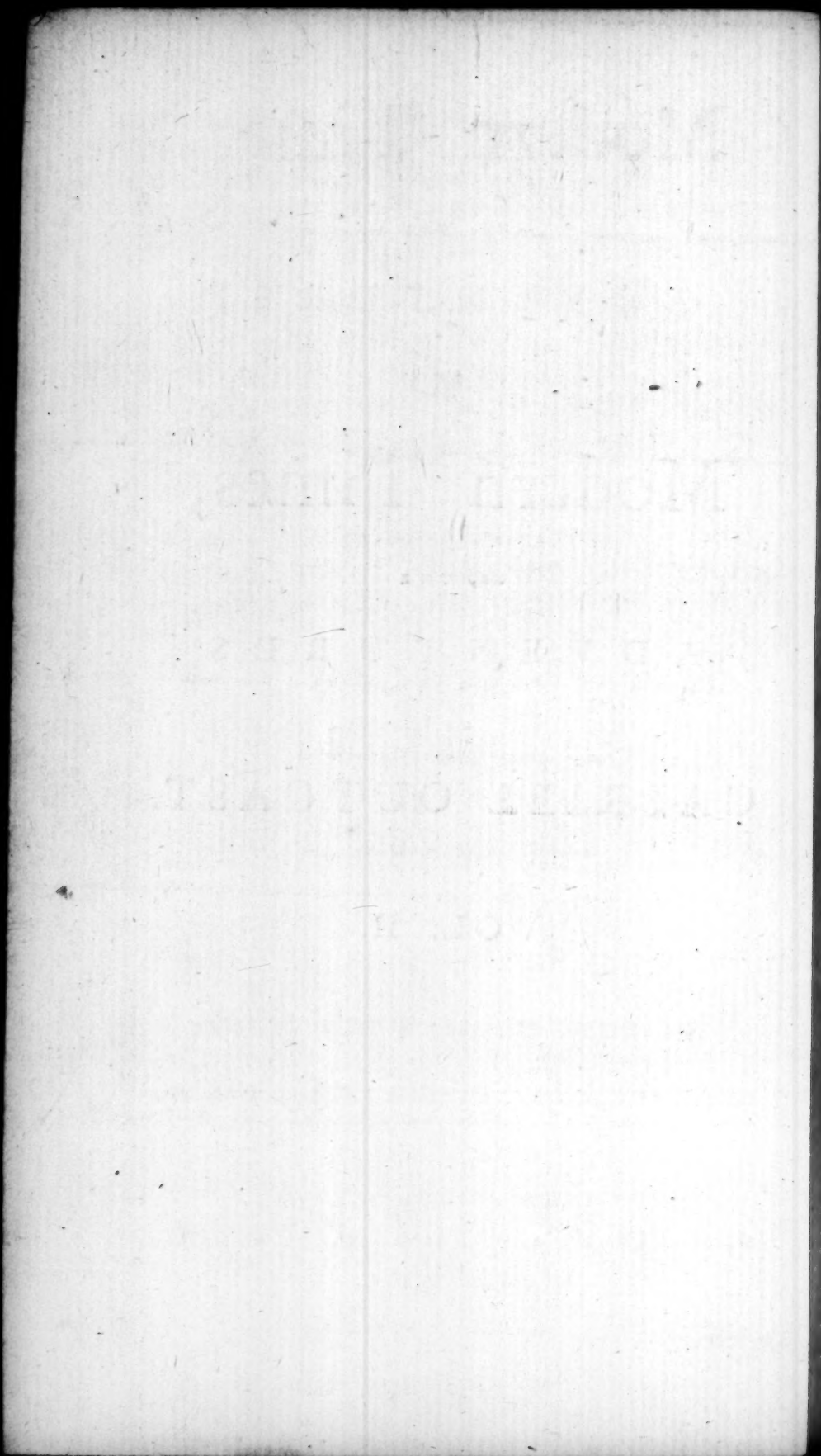
OR, THE

A D V E N T U R E S

OF

GABRIEL OUTCAST.

VOL. II.



D. Andre
Modern Times,

OR, THE
A D V E N T U R E S
OF
GABRIEL OUTCAST.

SUPPOSED TO BE
WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.
IN IMITATION OF GIL BLAS.

QUI CAPIT, ILLE FACIT.

Prov.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

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Modern Times

A D V E N T U R E

MOORE'S
CARRIAGE OUTCAST

WAITING BY THE WHEEL

THE HISTORY OF THE

WHEEL

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MODERN TIMES.

CHAPTER I.

Remarks on Inn-keepers. Our Author joins a Company of Marauders. The Nature of Smuggling.

IT being very cold upon the road, I found the want of a great coat much ; and at the inn where the coach breakfasted, I got luckily equipped with one. On my saying in the kitchen, I felt the weather cold, and would gladly give my shoe-buckles, which were silver, and fashionable, in exchange for a great coat, a gentleman's servant by the fire-side, embracing the proposal, said, " he had a

“ good livery coat to dispose of, blue,
“ with a white cape, which he thought
“ would fit me, and if I liked it, he would
“ swap with me.” He fetched down
the coat from above, being a lodger in
the house, the bargain was immediately
struck, and he gave me the coat, and
his metal buckles in exchange for
mine: I put it on, and instantly for-
got my situation. So much happiness
does a little degree of comfort create!
The only thing I noticed, worth re-
marking at this house, was, that some
of the coach gentry had found fault
with the tea, and desired fresh might
be brought; but the girl put the same
into a fresh canister, and carried it in
again, at which they were pleased.
On my smiling at this, she told me,
“ she often did so, for travellers seldom
“ knew good tea from bad, or good
“ wine from bad; that they found
“ fault frequently for the sake of find-
“ ing fault, and thought by calling
“ about

“ about them to give themselves con-
“ sequence; that she had lived long
“ enough in an inn to know their
“ trim, and always turned the tables
“ upon them; and if at any time
“ they disliked the tea or the wine,
“ she carried in the same again in a
“ fresh cannister, or changed the other
“ for a fresh bottle of the same wine,
“ and it was immediately praised with
“ a ‘ This is *something* like! Why
‘ had you not brought us this be-
‘ fore?’ The ridiculousness of such
conduct will be better displayed by the
following anecdote, to which I was a
witness, at a place of entertainment
in the neighbourhood of London.
“ Three or four military gentlemen,
“ who affected to be judges of wine,
“ had called for a bottle of Lisbon.
“ The first who tasted it said it was
“ pricked, and asked the opinion of
“ the rest. One who boasted in a su-
“ perior knowledge of wines, said,

“ let *me* taste it,’ and having taken half
“ a glass, worked it about in his
“ mouth, and spit it out on the floor,
“ with a ‘pricked! Zounds, ’tis *four*.’
“ In short, they all agreed it was
“ d-mned bad, and not fit to be drank.
“ The waiter was called, and, assert-
“ ing it to be Lisbon, and such as no
“ gentleman had ever disliked, he was
“ ordered to send his master; the
“ waiter having told his master the
“ complaint, the master assured the
“ gentlemen that it was good Lisbon,
“ that he gave the best price for his
“ wines, and was sorry they disap-
“ proved of it. ‘Zounds, fellow,’
“ says one, ‘do you suppose we have
“ neither taste nor judgment? Taste it
“ *yourself*.’ The master tasted it—told
“ the gentlemen, he was sorry for the
“ accident—it was a mistake of the
“ waiter, who had brought them *Old*
“ *Hock* instead of *Lisbon*, but he would
“ change it for them immediately.
“ They

“ They looked round upon each other
“ with a ridiculous surprise at their
“ own ignorance, and replied, ‘ *Hock*
‘ is it?—Well, if it be *Hock*, you may
‘ leave it;’ and were thus contented
“ to pay seven shillings for what they
“ would not give half a crown for
“ before.”—But, to pursue the thread
of my story.

At the end of the first day’s journey, I quitted the coach, and determined to travel on foot. Having loaded my pistols, in order to secure the little money I had, I, the next day, broke out of the high road, to cross a part of the New Forest in Hampshire, as undetermined, as when I first set out, which way to proceed; and I had scarce walked a mile from the town where I laid; but I was accosted by two men in tattered garments, having clubbed sticks in their hands, with “ Which way are you going, my boy?” My beard was of four days growth, and I looked

as rough, and as uncouth as either of them. I told them, 'I was a stranger to the country, and hardly knew which way I was going.' "Come, then," says one of them, "let's see what you are made of; turn out your pockets." On this I threw open my great coat, and took one of my pistols in my hand, and they started back; not expecting, I apprehend, to find me armed. "Hark'ee, my friends," says I, presenting the pistol at them, "I am one of the desperate ones, and have more need of *protection* than to be rifled. I am flying from the world, and if you can point out to me any haunt in this forest, where I can be concealed for some time, you will render yourselves of use to me, and you may possibly find your account in it; but, if you act treacherously, and attempt to deceive me, I will, by the L—d, lodge the contents of these pistols within you."

"Will

“ Will you be one of us ? ” says he who accosted me first. “ What are you ? ” replied I. “ We are,” returned he, “ part of a company who dwell in this forest, and lead a very easy, undisturbed life—we are sworn friends to each other, and live by marauding.” “ That is to say,” retorted I, “ you are a gang of rascals.” But, checking myself for the asperity of the term ; for there are rascals in every walk of life, from the first minister of state to the beggar in St. Giles’s, and to upbraid them with their conduct is but to wage war with mankind ; (besides, it is the polite only, and the witty, that can bear raillery). “ Come,” said I, “ my lads, I don’t mean to affront you. You may be as great in *your* way as the best of men are in *theirs* ; you, perhaps, act but as the rest of the world ; that is, do no right, take no wrong, keep what you get, and get what you can ;

B 4

“ plunder

“plunder those only who have not
“heart to give, live an independent
“life upon the fat of the land, and
“kill your own mutton. Come,
“lead on, I’ll see your company.”—
“But we must know,” says one of
them, “what likelihood there is of
“your continuing with us, and that
“you will not betray us?” “My
“poverty,” replied I, “is the best
“security for my not quitting an easy
“independent life; and as I shall be
“but one among many, if I prove
“treacherous, pistol me.” “Agreed,”
—said they “give us your hand;”
“and d-mn *me*,” says one of these fel-
lows to the other, “if our ruler won’t
“be glad to have him among us!”
with that he pulled out of his pocket a
small bottle of gin, and asked me,
“if I would have a sup.” I drank
with them as a ratification of the co-
venant between us, and then followed
them. They informed me, that their
company

company consisted of seventeen stout men, between twenty years of age and fifty, and that it was of many years standing; that sometimes they have been more in number, sometimes less, as now and then one of them died, and now and then would one of them fall into the hands of justice, and they lost him; that they were well known throughout the whole forest, and were considered by the inhabitants as a necessary evil; as, for one lawless crime they committed, they prevented many. Not putting the greatest confidence in these my new friends, I made them rather walk before me, telling them, "that as we became better acquainted, I, probably, should not be so mistrustful." They took what I said in good part, and told me, "they thought we should reach their place of rendezvous by the hour of meeting, which was eleven o'clock." They led me through many intricate and by-

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paths,

paths, and I observed, that though we passed several foresters, none took any more notice of us, than merely looking back upon us, after we had passed them. One person we met, indeed, stopped and told us, his hen-roost had been robbed the night before, and asked the man, whose name was Nim, whether he had heard any thing of it; he assured him he had not; for, I found, on conversing with them, that they suffered no plunder in the place, if they could help it, but what they committed themselves. “As for ourselves,” says Nim, “we act with generosity, and never take but from those who can afford to lose.” I observed to them, “It would be happy for this country, if all men could boast the same; for it was the misfortune of the wretched, ever to be the prey of the rapacious.” “By G-d, Nim,” says Trig; for that was the name of the other honourable scoundrel

scoundrel I had been pleased to take by the hand, "this seems to be a good fellow, he must be our ruler next year;" (and to this mark of their approbation I made a bow of acknowledgment). They told me, "that one of the company was annually chosen ruler by a majority of the rest."

As we travelled on, they were very desirous of knowing my history, and what led me to withdraw myself from the world; such adventurous parts of my story, as I thought would raise me in their opinion, I made them acquainted with, under a feigned name; but every other circumstance I carefully concealed. When I had ended my own story, I begged to know theirs.

Nim told me, he had been rider to a notorious smuggler in the county of Sussex, who amassed a considerable sum of money by leaguings with the Custom-house officers; for, says he,

though these men are appointed by government to look after and guard the revenue, they are the greatest villains in the world. They betray their trust, and serve themselves at the expence of the state.—“ But herein,” returned I, “ they do no more than “ other great men of the age are accustomed to.”—“ True,” continued he, “ I don’t at all blame them. “ Every man for himself, and God “ for us all.” On my desiring to know some of the methods he pursued, Nim gave me the following account :

“ Smugglers find it their interest to “ bring such articles into this country “ as bear a heavy duty.” “ Tobacco- “ stalks, for example,” says he, “ are “ a fine article of commerce in “ this way. The first cost of a ton “ weight of these stalks at Dunkirk “ is not more than about forty shil- “ lings, and the duty being near “ forty-eight pounds, they will sell “ to the Spanish cutters in London, “ who

“ who convert them into snuff, for
“ fifty pounds a ton. Here then
“ is a fine profit; if we can dispose
“ of them for forty pounds, admit
“ the first cost and expences amount
“ to five pounds, the smuggler gains
“ thirty-five pounds. Now this thirty-
“ five pounds enables him to bribe the
“ Custom-house officers in the neigh-
“ bourhood where they are landed;
“ they are made up in half hundred
“ bags, for the convenience of car-
“ riage by the coaches and machines,
“ and the officers will pass forty of
“ these packages, that is, a ton weight,
“ for forty shillings.—If the importer
“ wishes to smuggle in a larger quan-
“ tity of stalks at a time than one or
“ two tons, and carry them to any
“ considerable distance from their
“ landing, he sometimes gets an offi-
“ cer to seize them, and mark them
“ with the broad R; and if, under
“ this false seizure, the goods reach
“ the destined place unobserved, the
“ officer

“ officer has so much per cent. ; if
“ they are noticed in their way by
“ any other officer, not in the confe-
“ deracy, they are carried to the Cus-
“ tom-house, and the officer gives to
“ the smuggling importer that moiety
“ of their value that falls to his lot for
“ seizing them. Was this discovered,
“ the officer would lose his place ; but
“ what is his place (thirty-five or forty
“ pounds a year, which a man can
“ earn at day-labour) in competition
“ with the sums they hazard such a
“ place for ? ’Tis the same with tea
“ and other articles ;—brandy is
“ smuggled in small tubs of four or
“ five gallons each, and tea in oil-skin
“ bags of fifty-six pounds weight per
“ bag. Twenty, thirty, or forty of
“ these tubs or bags are strung toge-
“ ther by cords, with stones fixed to
“ them, in order to sink them :—
“ thus prepared, the smuggler runs
“ his boat up into a creek or river,
“ and having noticed the place, by
“ land,

“ land, and other marks, throws the
“ goods overboard, where they lie
“ concealed from sight, and ready to
“ be grappled up again at a more convenient time.

“ I have been at this work often, and
“ was thought as complete a smuggler
“ as any in the country. Many a time
“ have I left Dunkirk in an open boat
“ of three or four tons burthen, and
“ been off the Essex, Kent, or Suffex
“ coasts, in the middle of a dark night,
“ waiting for signals from the shore, to
“ give notice for landing; but this has
“ been, when we chose to save the money to tide-waiters and Custom-house
“ officers.—I followed this way of life
“ a long time, but being afterwards
“ out-lawed, I offered myself to the society to which I now belong, who
“ subsist, in a great measure, by warring against the smugglers, and as I
“ was thought acquainted with their
“ practices, and of course a good acquisition,

“quisition, they accepted my services,
“and I have been in the brotherhood
“these four years.”

On my inquiring what he meant by being *rider* to a smuggler, he told me, that a body of daring, resolute men, were appointed by the importers, to transport the articles they landed, from one town to another; that they rode in troops from sixty to one hundred in number, bidding defiance to all law and opposition; that they conveyed their tea and brandy with them, openly in the face of day, each horse carrying his rider and three hundred pounds weight; that for this hazardous enterprize they were paid one guinea a week each, and seven shillings a day travelling expences; and that it was no wonder the revenue suffered so much as two millions of pounds annually, when smuggling had arrived to such a pitch, as that ships of force carrying twenty guns, were employed

employed to bring merchandize from Flanders, and such bodies of men were hired to convey it from place to place to place, when on shore.

Trig gave us *his* story as follows :

“ My mother was a gipsy, and I
“ was born in a ditch by a hedge side.
“ I have heard her frequently say, that
“ I brought more than my maintenance
“ into the world with me ; for
“ when she was able to trudge about
“ with me on her back, though I was
“ not able to speak, she soon taught
“ me to cry ; for when any one fell
“ in her way, of whom she meant to
“ ask charity, she gave me a nip and
“ set me a roaring, in order to excite
“ compassion ; so that in a little time,
“ when we passed any one, I cried as
“ naturally as if I had been pinched.
“ I was no sooner able to walk but I
“ learnt from her all the arts of begging,
“ such as to make wry faces,
“ writhe my body as if I was pinched
“ with

“ with cold, or griped with hunger ;
“ and limped as if want of shoes had
“ wounded my feet. Whilst I was
“ thus of use to her, she kept me with
“ her ; but when I grew a great boy,
“ she drove me from her, and obliged
“ me to shift for myself, having in-
“ troduced me to a society of beggars,
“ to whom she said I should be an ac-
“ quisition, as I could distort my face,
“ so as to describe any kind of pain
“ or internal distress. Into this fra-
“ ternity was I received, and conti-
“ nued till I became a man. And
“ though we wore the appearance of
“ wretchedness, few passed their lives
“ happier. Indeed we lived by decep-
“ tion, but we lived well. Some of
“ us were occasionally lame, some
“ blind, and others covered with arti-
“ ficial ulcers : And such is the folly
“ and weakness of the world, that
“ though they will pay their poors rate
“ with reluctance, or refuse a sixpence
“ to

“ to a famishing neighbour, when
“ there is no art or contrivance to
“ mislead them, yet are they easily
“ induced to open their purses to a
“ bound-up head or a wooden leg.
“ But, though I lived well, the life I
“ lived was an idle one, and did not
“ suit me; I was for greater enter-
“ prizes. I then took to the road,
“ and had continued on that lay
“ till now, but for fear of a halter.
“ This I own deterred me, and led
“ me to solicit an admission into the
“ brotherhood to which I have the
“ honour to belong.”

We were now near the place of rendezvous. A very short time brought us up with the company, having travelled, as I conceived, about seven miles from the high-road. They seemed to be all met, and such a set of banditti I had never seen assembled before. They were seated on the ground, in a ring, within a glade in
the

the thickest part of the forest, and as a circular trench was dug out within this ring, to let down their legs as they sat, the ground before them served them for a table, which was raised above the level of their seats by the earth thrown out of the trench; before each man were placed his wallet and his weapons of defence, among which I discovered a carbine or two, two or three pair of rusty pistols, a few old cutlasses, and each man had a bludgeon besides. On my arrival at this place, my companions introduced me to the ruler, as one that wished to be of the company; whose honour and attachment (for these were their own words) they could venture to answer for. "Gentlemen," says I, addressing myself to the body, "you see
" here before you a man, who, though
" young in life, has seen enough of
" the world to be sick of it; and who
" will be happy to find a retreat
" among

“ among *you*. I am a stranger to
“ fear, and equal to any thing consist-
“ ent with prudence. I presume you
“ are governed by some laws of your
“ own, and you will find me a strict
“ observer of them. What the ma-
“ jority of this company dare propose,
“ I think I dare undertake; and if
“ conducted with spirit, will almost
“ answer for the event.” This speech
seemed to meet with general applause,
and I took my seat at the board among
the rest. On enquiry I found they
were a parcel of villains that deserved
a halter, and as I passed by a fictitious
name, and did not boast of greater
virtue than the rest, I was considered
in no better light.

As soon as I was seated, the ruler,
who did not want for sense, addressed
me in the following terms: “ You
“ have been introduced here by our
“ noble and worthy friends, Nim and
“ Trig; and I trust you are not in-
“ sensible

“ sensible of the dignity of a seat
“ among us.—Whatever opinion you
“ may entertain of this company, I
“ venture to assert, that we are all ho-
“ nourable men :—Men above any
“ abject meanness. Like the nobles
“ and rulers of the land, we live, in-
“ deed by plunder, but it is the plun-
“ der of the villain, and such as are
“ enemies to the community we be-
“ long to. Is it not just to take from
“ the oppressor, and make him refund
“ the wages of peculation? Does not
“ the state benefit by forfeits and es-
“ cheats, by fines and confiscations?
“ And if it be lawful to take from a
“ villain his property in *any* case, it
“ is equally lawful to do it in *all* cases;
“ for necessity cannot justify a bad
“ act. The lower a scoundrel is kept,
“ the less power he has of doing
“ harm; if, therefore, we confine our
“ plunder and depredations to the
“ griping, the usurious, and the law-
“ less;

“ less ; far from acting wrong, we are
“ doing what is right. We live here,
“ my friend, secluded from a wicked
“ world, happy in a well-regulated
“ society ; protectors of the distressed,
“ and a terror only to the man of rap-
“acity and the smuggler. If we
“ now and then break in upon the
“ equitable doctrine of *mine* and *thine*,
“ it arises only from an error in judg-
“ ment, or false information ; as it
“ frequently happens at the boards of
“ custom and excise, where they too
“ frequently authorise oppression up-
“ on similar pleas of excuse. Often
“ has a Custom-house officer seized a
“ man’s property, that has paid the
“ legal duties, merely because the
“ time of the *permit*, by which he is
“ allowed to remove it, has expired a
“ few hours : and what is this better
“ than robbing on the highway ? At
“ the worst, we act but in conformity
“ with the rest of the world, where
“ the

“ the longest arm ever puts in a claim
“ for the largest share. It is the cus-
“ tom of *state*-rulers to enrich them-
“ selves at the expence of the commu-
“ nity, and to stick at nothing that
“ will add either to their pleasure or
“ convenience; but *I* disclaim such
“ conduct. I enjoy no privileges but
“ in common with the rest, except
“ that of leading them on occasion-
“ ally in desperate adventures; and,
“ as to exclusive benefits, I have none;
“ nor do I wish for any. The plun-
“ der I acquire is ever divided among
“ the company; more happy in hav-
“ ing acquired it, than in any divi-
“ sion that may fall to my share.—
“ In short, my friend, whilst you
“ think proper to continue with us,
“ you will partake equally in every
“ thing we possess, and if you now
“ and then get some hard blows, you
“ will have the satisfaction of suffering
“ in a noble cause.”

Such

Such was our superior's introductory address to me, and it was not without its influence.

I am almost ashamed to own it, but I continued in this society near two years, and gave such universal satisfaction, that in three months after my joining it, I was unanimously chosen their ruler; and I persuade myself from some salutary regulations I proposed and carried, that I placed the company on a more *respectable* footing than it had ever been before. We acted sometimes in a body, and sometimes by detachments, and so scoured the whole forest, as to keep it tolerably honest. We were at constant war with the smugglers, robbed them whenever we had an opportunity, and, in so doing, became useful members to the state. It was a rule of mine, and which I believe was invariably attended to, never to commit any depredations but on suspected people, on

the griping and avaritious, and such persons as studied to be troublesome to us. If we had notice of any robbery committed within the forest, we never rested till we had ferretted the villain out, or given him into the hands of justice; so that we had often presents for such services; and if we were at any time charged with picking up a bag of tea, an anker of brandy, a straggling sheep, or a wild turkey, that might have been the property of a smuggler, a griping farmer, or the like, it was generally winked at, and thought no more than what they deserved to lose. A present from any of the inhabitants of a toothless sheep, an old sow, a keg of gin or beer, or a cast suit of clothes, was sure to be rewarded with protection for some months afterwards; so that in fact we had the whole forest under contribution. We lived almost in the open air: we had, indeed, two or three mud

mud cabins in one part of the forest; but, in the summer, we slept chiefly under hay-stacks, dry banks, cart-lodges, and such other shelter; and in winter, the farmers, upon asking leave, would, through fear, suffer us to sleep a night or two in their empty out-houses or barns, and very often give us refreshment in the morning. Before I joined the party, I believe they would occasionally take a purse upon a bye-road (witness the attempt that was made upon me), and would sometimes stretch to other enormities; but there was no money collected during my time, except, perhaps, in the way of deceit, such as feigning distress and exciting the compassion of travelling strangers: nor, do I believe that any of the party proceeded to lengths that would have amounted to more than a petty larceny.

C H A P. II.

*The History of the Ruler of the Gang.
Arts of Sheriffs' Officers, Tea-dealers,
Wine-merchants, a certain Chinaman,
&c.; with the Folly of Women of
Fashion.*

OUR captain or ruler being the cleverest and best informed fellow of the whole gang, and having a genteel carriage, I was desirous of knowing his history; and one day, when the party was upon the scout, and we two left alone, at my request he gave me the following account of himself.

“ Who my mother was, I cannot
“ say, but the person who called him-
“ self my father, was a sheriff's offi-
“ cer, who got pretty snugly into
“ life, by plundering the wretched,
“ and preying upon the oppressed.
“ When

“ When I was at an age to remember
“ any thing concerning him, he had
“ a woman lived with him who passed
“ for my mother-in-law ; but it is a
“ doubt with me, whether ever they
“ were married. However, be that
“ as it may, they lived together as
“ man and wife. I was taught to
“ swear early, nothing being so pretty,
“ my mother used to say, as to hear
“ children lisp out an oath ; and my fa-
“ ther was of opinion, it gave boys a
“ noble boldness and an air of man-
“ hood. The common public room
“ of our house was a miserable dun-
“ geon, under ground, calculated to
“ convey an idea of horror, that
“ men who had lived tolerably in
“ the world, and who on an action
“ for debt, were unfortunate enough
“ to fall into his hands, might
“ loath the very sight of the place,
“ and be glad to give him five shil-
“ lings a week to be admitted into a

“ better room. We had one up-stairs,
“ that would contain twenty persons,
“ and it was generally full at five shil-
“ lings a head ; this with half a gui-
“ nea a week, for half a bed, and
“ two shillings and sixpence a day
“ from each, for a wretched break-
“ fast and a worse dinner, put a con-
“ siderable deal of money into my fa-
“ ther’s pocket ; but this was not the
“ only mode he had of gaining mo-
“ ney. Sheriff’s officers give security
“ always for their trust, so that if
“ they serve a writ, and let the pri-
“ soner go at large, after he is once
“ arrested, they are liable to pay the
“ debt : ’tis on this account they will
“ make fifty excuses rather than serve
“ a writ in the presence of the attor-
“ ney or the plaintiff ; but when there
“ is no prying eye upon their con-
“ duct, they will often, on receiving
“ a present of a guinea or two, suffer
“ their prisoners to go and look for
“ their

“ their bail themselves; and should
“ they, when at liberty, not keep their
“ word, and attend the officer at the
“ time appointed, he will tell the
“ plaintiff or his attorney, that he
“ never was able to meet with the de-
“ fendant. In this school, the recep-
“ tacle of a variety of villainy and
“ wretchedness, was I brought up till
“ I was nineteen years old, and if I
“ was born with any natural feelings,
“ they were here quite eradicated. I
“ was taught to load an unhappy
“ wretch with additional misery, and
“ rob him of every little degree of
“ comfort he might possess, in order
“ to make him pine for relief, which
“ relief was never afforded, but at an
“ exorbitant price. We had a licence
“ for selling wine; but that wine was
“ so poor and so sour, that it required
“ something stronger always to qualify
“ it; and if a prisoner wished to
“ send out for brandy or strong beer,

“ we always exacted as much for
“ fetching it, as the liquor was worth.
“ I should have continued with my
“ father, he designing me to be one
“ of his followers, but my mother-in-
“ law led me such a weary life, that
“ one day when my father was out,
“ I opened his bureau, made free with
“ about twenty pounds of his ill-got-
“ ten wealth, and decamped ; and of
“ course never durst see his face again.
“ I had sense enough, with these
“ twenty pounds to equip myself with
“ necessary clothes, and by an applica-
“ tion to a register-office, got me a
“ place ; a character for which cost me
“ no less than a guinea. As a Sheriff’s
“ officer has always bail at hand, to give
“ security to an action, at a price pro-
“ portionable to the debt the prisoner
“ is arrested for, so these keepers of
“ register-offices have always a house-
“ keeper or two ready to give a cha-
“ racter to those who want one, and
“ are

“ are enabled to purchase it. The
 “ price of a written character is a
 “ crown, that of a verbal one, by one
 “ of these friends, a guinea. It was a
 “ guinea, however, well laid out, and
 “ I did not grudge it. It procured
 “ me a place at a tea-dealer’s in Bond-
 “ street, to open and shut up shop,
 “ carry out parcels, and do other
 “ things. My master, from dealing
 “ with women of fashion, had acquired
 “ a smoothness of tongue sufficient to
 “ deceive the devil, and he found
 “ it of great use to him. If any
 “ woman came to his shop in a coach,
 “ or on foot, with a servant behind
 “ her, whether titled or not, she was
 “ always a lady, and during her stay,
 “ the word *ladyship* was seldom out of
 “ his mouth. He would stand all
 “ day dressed at his shop door, when
 “ he had no customers within, and
 “ bow to every carriage that passed;
 “ and whilst he was at dinner, he ex-
 C 5 “ pected

“pected me to be dressed, and to bow
“for him. ‘Why didn’t you bow
“to that coach,’ said he to me one day
“warmly? I told him it was empty,—
“what’s that to the purpose you block-
“head,’ returns he? ‘Always bow to
“a coronet, full or empty.’ And he
“profited by this plan; for he had a
“world of business, and was supposed
“to be a monied man. I was in the
“shop one day, when a lady accus-
“tomed to drink twenty shilling tea,
“came in, and asked to see some of
“his best Hyson. He shewed her a
“cannister at eighteen shillings a
“pound. She took it to the light,
“smelt it, tasted it, rubbed it in the
“palm of her hand, smelt it again,
“and enquired if he had no better;
“he assured her ladyship, there was
“no better to be bought, and perhaps
“he spoke the truth; for all tea-
“dealers mix their teas, as wine mer-
“chants adulterate their wine and spi-
“rits.

“ rits. They make Hyson of all
“ prices, from ten shillings to eighteen,
“ by mixing it with what is called
“ *Bloom*, or common green: then
“ again they dye it and scent it; a
“ few drops of Bergamot, &c. thrown
“ into a pound of Souchong, is sold
“ for Cowslip, or a tea of a superior
“ nature; and as I generally had a
“ hand in these adulterations, I can
“ take upon me to say, I believe the
“ tea my master shewed this lady was
“ as genuine as any she could have
“ met with. But it would not do;
“ Better,’ says she, ‘ Mr. Congo, is
“ certainly to be bought, for I drink
“ better every day, though ’tis true I
“ give more money for it. If you
“ have no better, I am sorry for the
“ trouble I have given you.’ On her
“ leaving the shop, he replied, ‘ if
“ your ladyship does not object to
“ price, I have a peculiar kind at thirty-
“ six shillings a pound, which I defy
“ the

‘ the whole town to equal.’ ‘ Thirty-
‘ fix shillings!’ exclaimed she, return-
“ ing, ‘ I never heard of such a price,
‘ —it must be a curiosity! — Pray let
‘ me see it.’ He then reached down
“ another cannister of the same tea,
“ and she, examining it with some
“ attention, cries, ‘ this, to be sure, is
‘ considerably better; but the price
‘ amazes me. — Why didn’t you shew
‘ me this at first? Weigh me out two
‘ pounds, and if I like it, I will send
‘ for more.’ Thus did this fanciful
“ woman pay thirty-six shillings a
“ pound for tea, which she might
“ have had for eighteen. But ’tis the
“ way with these ladies; not know-
“ ing the value or price of commodi-
“ ties, they are taken in by almost
“ every tradesman they deal with.
“ So that with all the parade of pry-
“ ing, looking over, examining, en-
“ quiring, cheapening, and so on, they
“ will give fifty per cent. more than
“ other

“ other people. Knowing nothing
“ beyond the line of life they are in,
“ they rate the goodness of every
“ thing by its price, and conceive a
“ low-priced article to be nought but
“ trash. Goods within their know-
“ ledge they will go far a-foot to pur-
“ chase. City traders, unused to deal
“ with such persons, will not often
“ take advantage of their ignorance.
“ They will not ask fifteen shillings
“ for a purse at a coach door, which
“ they will sell for half the money to a
“ customer on foot. There are some
“ ladies shrewd enough to know this ;
“ and yet these, instead of going in
“ their own carriage, will pay four
“ shillings for a hackney coach, to
“ save two-pence a yard on a dozen
“ yards of ribband. In a word, they
“ owe all this to their pride, their
“ vanity, and parade ; they will go a
“ *shopping*, as they call it, morning
“ after morning, tumble over a great
“ variety

“ variety of goods, give a great deal
 “ of trouble, and not buy ; and often
 “ when they *do* buy, they will not
 “ *pay* for years. Were persons of for-
 “ tune to act consistently, they would
 “ soon find their account in it ; but
 “ whilst they go on as they do, they
 “ must not be surpris'd at any thing
 “ they meet with.”

I told the captain, that I had not only heard that wine-merchants adulterated their wines, but absolutely *made* them.

‘ There is not the least doubt of it,’ returns he ; ‘ three fourths of the white wine drank in this kingdom are compositions put together here, and made palatable by a liquor they call *flavour* ; and as to Port, what is generally drank is a mixture of malt-spirits, red wine, and turnep-juice * ;—for
 ‘ the

* For the benefit of economical readers, the following are the proportions : Forty-eight gallons

‘ the whole kingdom of Portugal could
‘ not furnish half the quantity here
‘ consumed. But to return,’ says he,
‘ to my story.’

“ I should have continued with
“ Mr. Congo longer, but I happened
“ one day to let the cat out of the bag,
“ by telling my master, inadvertently,
“ before the exciseman, who happen-
“ ed to be in the shop, that a bag of
“ tea which he had stowed away in the
“ cellar was burst, and a good deal of
“ the tea shed. For there is not a
“ tea-dealer in town or country but
“ what smuggles more or less. They
“ are to conceal no exciseable goods
“ from the inspection of the excise-

lons of liquor pressed from turnips, eight gallons of malt spirits, and eight gallons of good Port wine, coloured with cochineal, and roughened with elder tops. It should stand two years in casks, and one in bottles. If rough cyder is substituted for turnip-juice, and Coniac brandy for malt spirits, the wine will be the better.

“ man ;

“ man ; and this idle expression of
“ mine not only cost him a silencing
“ fee of twenty guineas to steer clear
“ of the Exchequer, but it lost me my
“ place.

“ I applied again to a register-office,
“ and was next in the service of Mr.
“ Porcelain, a chinaman in St. James’s
“ Street. This master, like my last,
“ had little to do but with women of
“ fashion, and gave me an opportunity
“ of seeing a little more of their folly.
“ He had originally been a Welch
“ drover, was a man of low cunning,
“ and where he picked up his know-
“ ledge in china, I know not, but he
“ was reckoned a connoisseur, and
“ became the standard of taste in this
“ branch of trade. Possessed of the
“ most beautiful and valuable collec-
“ tion in town, his shop was the
“ morning faunter of those ladies
“ whose fancy took that turn. His
“ mode of keeping up this collection,
“ was

“ was by culling the china closets of
“ women of quality, in a very artful
“ and designing way. His plan was
“ to find out what ladies had the best
“ collection, and whenever they came
“ to his shop, he gave them to under-
“ stand, that he took china in ex-
“ change, and possibly they might
“ have a few odd articles, of little value
“ to them, but which, when assorted
“ with other pieces, which he might
“ find amongst his lumber, might be
“ worth something. This generally
“ procured him access to the closet:
“ besides, there are few collectors of
“ china, but (like collectors of natural
“ curiosities) are fond of displaying
“ their collections before those who
“ are esteemed virtuosos.

“ He was one day in lady Betty
“ Soft's closet, when a pair of old
“ vases of uncommon beauty struck
“ him. But he was silent. She
“ shewed him every thing in turn, and
“ asked

“ asked his opinion of it. He did not
“ fail to praise most things of little va-
“ lue, and depreciate many of intrinsic
“ worth; but declared, had he not
“ seen, upon the whole, a more va-
“ luable collection any where, and,
“ that her ladyship shewed herself a
“ woman of uncommon taste. There
“ was nothing, he said, throughout
“ the closet that arraigned that taste
“ but those vulgar vases in the corner,
“ which he would advise her ladyship
“ to put upon the mantle-piece in her
“ nursery. ‘Nursery,’ says she, ‘Mr.
‘ Porcelain? they will soon be of no
‘ value there, and they cost me a great
‘ deal of money.’ Then your lady-
“ ship was imposed on, returned he.
‘ You had better take them, then,’ re-
“ plied lady Betty, ‘with these odd
‘ articles we have picked out.’ They
“ were of little worth,” he said, “by
“ themselves, but, along with other
“ things, he would allow her ladyship
“ some-

“ something for them. He accord-
“ ingly took them away with him,
“ and was no sooner gone than her
“ ladyship’s maid was rung for, and
“ made acquainted with the business
“ of the morning. ‘ Porcelain, the
‘ china-man,’ says she, ‘ has been
‘ here, and those vases which you and
‘ others have so much admired, I find,
‘ are trumpery things.’—‘ Who told
‘ your ladyship so?’ replies the maid.
‘ Porcelain himself,’ returns she; ‘ he
‘ declared they were the most paltry
‘ things in nature, and a disgrace to my
‘ closet; and he has taken them away.’
‘ Taken them away!’ exclaims Brid-
“ get, ‘ sure, my lady, you would
‘ not suffer yourself to be cheated in
‘ that style; he has under-valued
‘ them merely to get them into his
‘ own clutches, and will sell them as
‘ great rarities.’—‘ Aye!’ says lady
“ Betty, ‘ then send Thomas after
‘ him *immediately*, and let him bring
‘ them

‘ them back.’ Thomas was instantly
“ dispatched, but Porcelain, on his
“ reaching home, ordered me to carry
“ them up to the top of the house;
“ and on being told the man’s errand,
“ cried out, ‘ How very unfortunate !
‘ I had no sooner brought them and
‘ set them down upon my counter,
‘ but a gentleman, who came in at
‘ that instant, asked the price of that
‘ ordinary pair of vases, and I have
‘ sold them to him for a song. Run,
‘ Will,’ says he to me, ‘ down that
‘ street, you may possibly overtake
‘ him—in a scarlet gold-laced waist-
‘ coat—he has not been out of the
‘ shop five minutes.’ I set off as he
“ ordered me—but the vases were ir-
“ recoverable. And three months
“ afterwards, with some additional
“ painted ornaments, to disguise them,
“ they added to his stock of china,
“ and were rated as antiques.

“ On

“ On my smiling at the idea of his
“ painting them a-fresh, he told me it
“ was a practice with him. He has
“ been known to sell a whole service of
“ white china, painted and varnished
“ over, for that which is burnt in ;
“ and when a dinner has been served
“ up in it, the steam of the dishes
“ has obliterated the painting, and all
“ the figures have vanished.

“ He used to survey his customers
“ from head to foot, and ask a price
“ according to their appearance.—
“ ‘ What shall I give you,’ says a lady
“ one day to him, ‘ for that set of
“ ‘ Dresden china?’ It was Chelsea,
“ but as she took it for *Dresden*, he
“ asked a *Dresden* price (twenty gui-
“ neas), and it was purchased. In a
“ few weeks afterwards, her friends
“ informed her it was Chelsea. She
“ accordingly flew to him, ‘ and won-
“ dered how he could presume to sell
“ her that set of Chelsea china for
“ ‘ Dresden.’

‘Dresden.’—‘I never sold it for Dresden,’ returns he; ‘your ladyship asked me what I would have for that set of *Dresden* china. I thought you had been a judge of china by your buying it up so. Had it been Dresden, it should not have gone for forty pieces: but if your ladyship dislikes it, you are welcome to change it for any thing else.’ Disappointed, “she looked round, and fixed upon a couple of jars worth about ten pounds, which he valued at thirty; but, to make her ladyship amends, he would only take of her five guineas, besides the breakfast set. The bargain was struck, the jars put into the coach, and her ladyship no sooner from the door, than he turned round to me, hugging himself in his adroitness, and declaring that one of the jars was cracked.”

This puts me in mind of a story I have somewhere met with: “A cane-

“ feller in London sold a gentleman a
“ cane for five guineas ; and to a se-
“ cond, the same kind of cane for ten,
“ telling him it was a *unique*, and there
“ was not such another in the king-
“ dom ; these two happening to meet,
“ and the last, upon an examination
“ of the two canes, conceiving himself
“ imposed on, went to the person of
“ whom he bought it, and rated him
“ upon the subject ; but he had suf-
“ ficient address to reconcile his cus-
“ tomer to the purchase, who implicitly
“ believed what the feller told him.
“ ‘ It is a great misfortune, Sir,’ says he,
“ ‘ that you are unacquainted with the
“ ‘ great value of that cane. I have been
“ ‘ looking out for you every day, ex-
“ ‘ pecting you would have called to
“ ‘ have thanked me for letting you into
“ ‘ so good a purchase on such easy
“ ‘ terms.’—‘ I have examined the two
“ ‘ canes,’ replied the gentleman, ‘ and
“ ‘ see no difference.’—‘ *Difference !*’
“ exclaimed

“ exclaimed the feller,—‘ all the difference in the world—the one I sold for five guineas is merely a jam-bee, whereas your’s is a jam-beau.’

“ Such a man was my second master; and you may suppose, that under the roof of two such artful instructors, I must certainly have improved. I learned a good deal before I left home; but acquired a further degree of knowledge under Mr. Congo and Mr. Porcelain. I fell in so much with my master’s natural disposition, that he began to like me; but an accident here also deprived me of my place. Our shop was seldom kept open after five o’clock, so that I had a good deal of time upon my hands;—some of my evenings I used to spend at a spouting club in the neighbourhood; where, though a very bad speaker, I got such a rage for declamation, that I was always repeating some passages or
“ other,

" other, whenever I had an opportu-
 " nity. When I spent my evenings
 " at home, I used to entertain the
 " maids with my theatrical abilities.
 " One of these, Susan, a simple coun-
 " try wench, whom I used occasion-
 " ally to kiss, as she said, till she was
 " all in a fidget, was mightily taken
 " with my speeches. I have ranted
 " away Hotspur till she has, with her
 " mouth open, been as stiff and as
 " motionless as a statue. But one
 " evening, when I was in spirits, I
 " gave them a few passages out of
 " Alexander the Great, and I had
 " worked myself up to such a pitch,
 " in the scene with Clytus, that when
 " I was to kill him, in a paroxysm of
 " rage, I kicked down the table, for-
 " getting that my master was over-
 " head. This made such a clatter,
 " that the bell was rung, and Susan
 " went up, scarce recovered from that
 " frigidity of horror my murderous
 Vol II. D " tongue

“ tongue at first had thrown her in-
“ to. ‘ What’s all that d—ned racket
“ below ?’ says my master?—‘ Nothing
“ Sir,’ says she, ‘ but Alexander has
“ just killed Clyphus.’ ‘ If he goes
“ on in this way,’ returns my master,
“ I shall have him in one of his fits
“ dealing death among the china, and
“ do me twenty pounds worth of mis-
“ chief.’—Upon this I was discharg-
“ ed.”

I gave him to understand that I was quite entertained with his manner of telling his story, as it fell in with my notions, that of making remarks on life as I passed along, and begged him to proceed.

He replied, “ from what he could
“ learn from his acquaintance who
“ were in the service of others, that
“ tradesmen show their worst goods
“ and oldest patterns first, particularly
“ silk-mercers, linen and woollen-dra-
“ pers, haberdashers, and the like;
“ that

“ that they have particular lights in
 “ their shops to give them a false ap-
 “ pearance ; that they pretend to ex-
 “ amine the goods narrowly, to make
 “ the buyer suppose they would not
 “ deceive him, ask more than the
 “ thing is worth to allow for abating,
 “ crib a little in the quantity or mea-
 “ sure, and then reach their scales to
 “ weigh the money they receive. In
 “ short, that there is not a trade or
 “ profession but what has its mysteries
 “ and arts of defrauding ; that men
 “ open their shops, set out their goods
 “ every morning to impose upon
 “ their customers, and cheerfully shut
 “ them up again at night, after hav-
 “ ing cheated all the day ; like the
 “ woman, who, after talking all the
 “ scandal she can, wipes her mouth,
 “ and says she has done no harm.

“ A gentleman comes into a linen-
 “ draper’s shop, and asks the price of
 “ some Irish that lies on the counter—

‘ The lowest price of that, at a word,’
“ says Dowlas, ‘ is three and three-
‘ pence a yard, and well worth the
‘ money, I assure you: it is well
‘ woven, Sir, and very even threaded;
‘ do but examine it.’—‘ I suppose,’
“ says the customer, ‘ you can take
‘ three shillings for it.’—‘ Three and
‘ threepence is the lowest. We are
‘ always at a word with gentlemen;
‘ the ladies are some how or other
‘ got into a way of expecting abate-
‘ ment, and we cannot sell our goods
‘ without making some reduction in
‘ the price we ask; for this reason we
‘ are obliged to ask an abating price.
‘ But gentlemen are more liberal in
‘ their dealings, and we make a point
‘ of never asking a penny more than
‘ we can afford to take.’ This flattery
“ generally pleases, and draws from
“ the customer a look of approbation,
“ accompanied with a wish, perhaps,
“ that all tradesmen would act upon the
“ same

“ same *honest* principles; the usual
 “ return for which is—‘ If they had
 “ any conscience, there is no doubt
 “ but they would; but the misfortune
 “ is, few are contented with a living
 “ profit, they think they never can get
 “ too much. I set out in life with
 “ very different notions, and I have
 “ found my account in it. My cus-
 “ tomers go away so well satisfied, that
 “ I am sure to see them again.’ And
 “ with all this rhodomontade, he per-
 “ haps has sold him a damaged piece
 “ of goods, or an article for three shil-
 “ lings and three-pence not worth half
 “ a crown.

“ Since then,” continued he, “ as
 “ whatever is, is right, and these men
 “ with whom I had lived were doing
 “ so well in the world by a little arti-
 “ fice and finesse, I was unhappy I
 “ could not strike out into some way
 “ of life myself, that would raise me
 “ above the situation of a servant.

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“ fice and finesse, I was unhappy I
“ could not strike out into some way
“ of life myself, that would raise me
“ above the situation of a servant.

“ However, thought I, as there is a
“ tide in the fortune of all men, I will
“ wait with patience. Something may
“ turn up unexpectedly.”

C H A P. III.

The History continued.

“ I PRESENTLY,” continued he,
“ I got another place, which was to
“ wait upon a young gentleman, who
“ lived upon an allowance from his
“ father. The old man was a widower,
“ had been very low bred, but was
“ fortunately in the possession of a
“ good estate, which he squandered
“ away in a very extraordinary man-
“ ner. He was immoderately fond of
“ farming, and fancied he had a ta-
“ lent, which few men possessed, that
“ of improving land to the highest de-
“ gree of luxuriance. He was of
“ opinion, that, of all men, he who
“ made two blades of grass grow
“ where only one grew before, was

“ the most useful in society. Under
“ this idea, he took farms in most
“ parts of the kingdom, though he
“ had not sufficient to stock them ; he
“ neither ploughed nor sowed, but
“ laid down all the land he could in
“ grass, and what he could not lay
“ down properly, he suffered nature
“ to lay down for him, with scutch-
“ grass, thistles, and docks. Though
“ he was a sensible and shrewd man
“ in other respects, he was a madman
“ in farming, and would almost de-
“ prive himself of necessities, to lay
“ it out upon land, which yielded him
“ little or no return. The finest crops
“ of grass and clover he has suffered to
“ rot on the ground, under a notion
“ of feeding the land. Nay, he has
“ been known to sow his grass lands
“ with carrot and turnip-feed, and on
“ being asked his reason for it, replied,
“ grass land could not be too full of
“ feeds.’ He has filled a barn with
“ potatoes,

“ potatoes, washed and piled away at
“ a great expence, and suffered them
“ to stand there and grow through the
“ thatch. I mention all this, to con-
“ vince you there could be no harm in
“ robbing such a man, for the sake of
“ his son, whom he had brought up
“ a gentleman, and whom, whilst
“ possessing a large fortune, he would
“ scarce allow sufficient to exist on.
“ I really pitied my young master,
“ who was an only child, from my
“ heart, and used to plead his cause
“ with the old gentleman often, but
“ could seldom extort any thing from
“ him. However, one day, when I had
“ been about a year in the family, I
“ contrived to get a little of his cash:
“ he had just received a debt of four
“ hundred pounds, and was coming
“ into the room where I and my
“ master were.—I gave my master
“ the wink and he left us; and the old
“ gentleman, having the bag in his
D 5 “ hand,

“ shut to the door; but did not see
“ that I was in the room. ‘ This is a
‘ strange age we live in,’ said he to
“ himself, ‘ I know not what to make
‘ of it. Never was there a greater
‘ fondness for money, nor so much
‘ difficulty in getting one’s own.
‘ Debts now-a-days are, like children,
‘ begot with pleasure, but brought
‘ forth with pain; however I have
‘ no need to complain, having just
‘ received four hundred pounds, that
‘ have been owing to me two years,
‘ and it will go a great way towards
‘ stocking Littlecot farm.—So, Mr.
‘ Rascal,’ continues he, seeing me
“ and hurrying the bag into his coat-
“ pocket!—‘ Rascal, Sir!’ returns I,
‘ I am sure I don’t deserve that name.’
‘ Yes, rascal,’ says he, ‘ you are the
‘ ruin of my son. You may tell him
‘ I am very angry with him.’ ‘ With
‘ my master, Sir?’ replies I; ‘ in-
‘ deed you are not the only one who
‘ complains

‘ complains of him ; his conduct is
‘ grown so abominable of late, that it
‘ drives *me* beyond all patience.’—
‘ Indeed !’ says the old man, ‘ why, I
‘ thought you and he were perfectly
‘ agreed.’—‘ Me, Sir ?’ returns I, af-
“ fecting unhappiness at his son’s
“ conduct, ‘ far from it ; I preach to
‘ him too much for that ; I am sure,
‘ I am always putting him in mind of
‘ the duty he owes to you and to him-
‘ self. Why, we are every moment
‘ at daggers drawing.—He can’t bear
‘ I should tell him how ill he behaves
‘ to you.’—‘ And do you quarrel with
‘ him for this ?’ says he. ‘ That I
‘ do, and pretty handsomely too,’ re-
“ turned I. ‘ I have been under a
‘ great mistake then,’ says he, ‘ for I
‘ always understood that you encour-
‘ aged him in his extravagance and
‘ disobedience.’—‘ Ah, Sir,’ exclaim-
“ ed I, ‘ see how innocence is often
‘ slandered and oppressed ! Sir, if I

‘ may be believed, was you to pay me
‘ for being his governor, I could not
‘ say more to him than I do, to make
‘ him behave more soberly and discreetly. Sir,’ says I to him very
“ often, ‘ in the name of goodness,
‘ don’t be carried away thus with
‘ every wind that blows; observe a
‘ more prudent carriage, and consider
‘ the worthy gentleman your father,
‘ who is depriving himself of necessities to save and get money for
‘ you.’ The old man seemed to
“ chuckle at this, and coming up to
“ me, I made an attempt to pick his
“ pocket of the bag; but not succeeding,
“ ing, I went on—‘ And no longer
‘ break his poor heart with your behaviour, but take up and live as he
‘ does with reputation and honour.’
“ Here I made another attempt and
“ succeeded.”—‘ Why, that was well
‘ said,’ replied the old gentleman.
‘ And what answer did he make?’—
‘ Answer?’

‘ Answer?’ says I, ‘ A pack of stuff
‘ that almost makes me mad; not,
‘ but to say the truth, he retains in his
‘ heart the seeds of honour and virtue
‘ you have there sown. But, alas, his
‘ reason has no longer any power over
‘ him! However, Sir, I hope I shall
‘ be able to bring him over at last.’
‘ Do so, my good lad,’ returns the
“ old man, altering his voice to a
“ softer tone than when he called me
“ rascal. ‘ Do, and you will find
‘ me your friend.—When you see
‘ him next—be sure you say as many
‘ fine things of me as you can.’—
‘ Let me alone, Sir,’ says I, ‘ for that;
‘ I’ll do the business, never fear.’ At
“ this he was going to quit the room;
“ but returned, as recollecting him-
“ self, with—‘ Lord, lord, how for-
‘ getful I am! I protest I was going
‘ away, without so much as thanking
‘ you for your good services. Stay—
‘ I’ll give thee something to remem-
‘ ber

‘ber me;’ and began to feel for his
“ bag : frightened out of my wits, lest he
“ should miss it, I caught hold of his
“ hand, with—‘ Not a farthing, Sir.’
“ He, on the contrary, seeming de-
“ termined to gratify me, cried out,
‘ I insist upon it;’ but I would not
“ quit my hold; and declared he
“ should not, saying—‘ I was not one
‘ of those selfish persons who act only
‘ from interest.’—‘ I know that,’ says
“ he, ‘ but still’—carrying his hand
“ towards his pocket ; but as I had not
“ quitted him, I pulled it rather for-
“ cibly the other way, and addressed
“ him warmly, with—‘ I must desire,
‘ Sir, you will desist ; I am a man of
‘ honour, and any farther offers of
‘ this nature will affront me.’ At this
“ he gave it up. ‘ But suppose,’ says
“ he, ‘ you was to carry my son a
‘ little present, perhaps that may lead
‘ him to think you his friend?’—‘ By
‘ no means, Sir,’ returned I, still
“ frightened

“ frightened lest he should miss his
“ bag. ‘ Keep your money. It will
“ look too much like a bribe.—If I see
“ occasion, I can but ask you.’—‘ Well
“ then,’ says he, ‘ be it so.—But be
“ sure ply him well, and leave no
“ stone unturned to bring him over,
“ and I shall ever value you.’ At this
“ he left the room, and me almost
“ out of breath for fear. As soon as
“ he was gone, I took fifty guineas
“ out of the bag for myself, for I
“ think I deserved it, and carried the
“ rest to my young master, telling
“ him how I got it. He seemed very
“ thankful, and gave me ten pieces
“ for my cleverness; for, said he, he
“ was sure it was no sin to take it from
“ him, as it would otherwise have
“ been thrown away upon a barren
“ foil.

“ A few hours after, whilst my
“ young master and I were together,
“ the old gentleman joined us, and
“ seemed

“ seemed to be in a very furly mood.
“ What are you two laying your heads
“ together about?—No good I warrant
“ you.’—‘ And I hope, no harm, Sir,’
“ says his son. ‘ That’s more,’ returns
“ he, ‘ than I know.’—‘ I’m forry,’
“ says I, ‘ to see you so much out of
“ humour, Sir.’—‘ Peace, rascal,’ cries
“ he, ‘ or I’ll lay my cane over you.
“ —Sorrow’s but poor comfort to a
“ man that’s lost his purse.’—‘ Have
“ you *really* lost it?’ says my young
“ master. ‘ Yes, blockhead,’ returns
“ his father, ‘ I have *really* lost it.—
“ Have you *found* it?’—‘ I wish I
“ had,’ says the son. ‘ Who doubts
“ you?’ returns the father. ‘ If you
“ had, I should never see it again.’—
“ Had it fallen into my master’s hands,’
“ says I, ‘ I’ll be answerable it would
“ have been returned untouched.’—
“ Yes, yes,’ replies he, ‘ rogues are
“ always ready to answer for one an-
“ other. I wish you would answer
“ for

‘ for yourself; it was whilst I was
‘ listening to you, scoundrel, or soon
‘ after, that I lost it; it was picked
‘ out of my coat pocket, or I must
‘ have pulled it out with my handker-
‘ chief.’—‘ Pulled it out with your
‘ handkerchief, most likely, Sir,’ re-
‘ turned I: ‘ what kind of purse was
‘ it?’—‘ That, I suppose,’ says he,
‘ you would be glad to know; no,
‘ no; I have no other mark to claim
‘ it by.’ On my telling him it might
‘ fall in my way to recover it for him,
‘ if he would but describe it to me, he
‘ seemed to listen to me, and desired
‘ his son to leave us together. As
‘ soon as he was gone, he began to
‘ address me in softer terms, and said,
‘ his bastard’s extravagant course of
‘ life often put him out of humour,
‘ and led him to say things he did not
‘ wish to say. ‘ Upon the whole,’
‘ says he, ‘ my good fellow, I have
‘ secretly considered you as a faithful
‘ honest

‘ honest lad ; and would a few hours
‘ ago have given you a small testi-
‘ mony of my good opinion, but your
‘ confounded scruples would not suf-
‘ fer me. I beg I may do it now.’
“ At this he gave me a couple of
“ guineas, ‘ and if you can,’ says he,
‘ by any means recover my money
‘ for me, I’ll be a friend to you as
‘ long as I live.’—‘ You are sensible,
‘ Sir,’ replied I, ‘ if it is possible to be
‘ recovered, it cannot be done without
‘ great trouble and some expence.
‘ What reward are you willing to
‘ give the finder?’—‘ Hah ! reward?’
“ says he, starting at the very idea,—
‘ suppose you offer a few guineas,—
‘ you may go as far as *five*.’ I asked
“ him what was the sum he lost.—
‘ Four hundred pounds,’ says he.
‘ And can you think,’ cried I, of of-
‘ fering so *small* a reward? That
‘ would undo us quite, the meanness
‘ of the offer would prevent its being
‘ returned,

‘ returned, in order to punish you.—
‘ Five, indeed, in hand, as a part of
‘ fifty more, if returned; nothing like
‘ generosity in these cases. Was it
‘ not a canvas bag?’ At the word *can-*
“ *vas* he seemed transported; I thought
“ he would have kissed me. ‘ Yes, a
‘ *canvas* bag; I see, my dear fellow,’
“ says he, ‘ you do know something
‘ of it.’ I told him, that I did hear
“ such a bag was found by a poorish
“ man, but little imagined it was his;
“ so probably if this man could be
“ found, what with persuasions, threats,
“ promises, and good words, it might
“ be recovered. ‘ Nothing more like-
‘ ly,’ says he,—‘ Do then, my good
‘ lad, set about it immediately, for no
‘ time should be lost.’—‘ But, Sir,’
“ returned I, ‘ the search of this man
‘ will be attended with some expence;
‘ and you know, Sir, I am not in a
‘ situation to give you credit.’ Upon
“ which he gave me three guineas.
‘ Three

‘ Three guineas !’ exclaimed I ; ‘ what
‘ is three guineas ? I can’t think of
‘ looking mean in this affair, purely
‘ for your sake.’ This drew from
“ him two pieces more. ‘ Then, Sir,
‘ there’s drink money ;’ that got an-
“ other guinea—‘ Messengers to one
‘ place’—this a guinea more—‘ Dis-
‘ patches to another—Bribes to one—
‘ hush-money to another.’—‘ ’Sdeath,’
“ says the old man, who gave me
“ more and more for every purpose,
‘ I’ll give no more unless ’tis brought
‘ me.’—But, Sir,’ says I, ‘ you for-
‘ get the five pieces as a reward in
‘ hand.’—‘ Zounds,’ says he, ‘ at this
‘ rate, you’ll pick my pocket of every
‘ guinea I have.’—Well, having got
“ got about twenty guineas from him,
“ I promised him to do my best ; but
“ on my leaving him, he directed me
“ to count the money and see the gold
“ was all weight, and that none of it
“ was changed.”

I asked

I asked him if he returned the bag of money. "Not a shilling," says he. "The fifty I took, I had too many uses for, and the remainder, which I gave my young master, I believe, did not continue with him long enough even to know how much he had. He never counted his money; he judged of the quantity only by the time it lasted."

C H A P. IV.

The same History concluded. Our Author quits the Gang of Marauders.

“ **W**ITH this fifty pounds I de-
“ termined to set up for my-
“ self: accordingly I quitted my place,
“ and hearing of an orphan young
“ lady of seventeen years of age, who
“ was heiress to a fortune of six thou-
“ sand a year, one thousand of which
“ she enjoyed during her minority,
“ and who lived with an aunt at the
“ west end of the town, I determined
“ to make a bold push, and try if I
“ could not carry her; with this view
“ I equipped myself with a suit or two
“ of genteel clothes, hired a job-
“ carriage, and passed for a gentle-
“ man.

“ man. Having found out the house
“ where she lived, I frequently walked
“ under the window, with the hopes
“ of seeing her ; and at last I saw
“ one whom I took to be her, and she
“ was as pretty as she was rich. My
“ next step was, if possible, to get ac-
“ cess to her. For this purpose, I
“ went to a public-house in the neigh-
“ bourhood, addressed myself to a
“ chairman I there found, and made
“ many enquiries respecting the fa-
“ mily, particularly where they visit-
“ ed, and where they resided in the
“ country : all this I learnt. This
“ done, I contrived to get to the ear
“ of some of the servants, which I
“ likewise effected. The chairman to
“ whom I first applied, told me, that
“ the footman and coachman used that
“ house, and were generally there in
“ an evening between tea-time and
“ supper. At this hour I went, and
“ was introduced to them. I took
“ the

“ the footman apart, gave him to un-
“ derstand I was a gentleman, and a
“ man of family and fortune ; that
“ accident had thrown me into the
“ way of his young mistress, and I
“ wished to be better acquainted with
“ her ; and if he would assist me in so
“ doing, I would endeavour to be his
“ friend ; and as an earnest of that
“ friendship, I tipped him half a gui-
“ nea. He promised me all the assist-
“ ance in his power, and told me, that
“ both ~~she~~ and her aunt were to be at
“ the play the next day, having a
“ couple of box tickets for a benefit.
“ This intelligence was every thing I
“ could wish. I was at the theatre the
“ same night, procured admission into
“ the same box, and had the happiness
“ to be particularly noticed by her ;
“ for I sat close by her side. When
“ the play was over, I handed her to
“ her carriage, and politely took my
“ leave. The day following, I found
“ out

“ out the footman again, and made
“ enquiries respecting the lady’s maid.
“ He assured me she was an open-
“ hearted girl, and did not doubt but
“ she would favour my views. I
“ wished very much to see her; and
“ he promised to ask her to give me a
“ meeting. An opportunity soon oc-
“ curred for that purpose; the foot-
“ man brought me word the next day,
“ that his young mistress and her
“ aunt went out an airing every morn-
“ ing about twelve, and that if I would
“ go to the house in their absence, he
“ had made their porter acquainted
“ with my wishes, and he would let
“ Miss’s maid know when I was there.
“ I took the first opportunity of go-
“ ing, and saw the coach drive from
“ the door. A tête-à-tête soon took
“ place between me and the maid,
“ whom I made also my friend by a
“ present of five guineas. She pro-
“ mised to plead my cause with her
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“ young mistress, and did it effectually.
“ An interview was appointed, and I
“ was to meet her in Kensington
“ Gardens. On the day fixed, she
“ was there with her maid, who,
“ on my coming up, retired. I had
“ now an opportunity of pressing
“ my suit; and I did it with as
“ much warmth, as if I had been really
“ in love. I told her a thousand lies
“ so passionately, that the poor little
“ credulous thing believed them all;
“ and at parting, promised to meet
“ me again the first opportunity. The
“ ice being now broken, through the
“ means of this servant, we carried on
“ a correspondence for near a month,
“ when I was given to understand,
“ that the family was retiring to their
“ seat in Hampshire.

“ This business was expensive; but
“ thinking myself sure of my prize, I
“ obtained goods upon credit, and
“ pawned them as soon as delivered.

“ This

“ This enabled me to keep up appear-
“ ances, and pay for my carriage and
“ my footman, though I lived in a
“ garret at the same time. I made it
“ a rule never to let my fellows know
“ where I resided, that they might not
“ blow me; but I appointed them
“ always to wait my coming at a cer-
“ tain coffee-house; and where, when
“ I had done with them, they regu-
“ larly left me. I turned, however,
“ this carriage to my advantage; I
“ was seen every where in it; and as
“ my credit increased in consequence,
“ I was able to draw on the pawn-
“ broker for more money. I follow-
“ ed Miss into the country, where,
“ under a pretence of taking a walk, I
“ had frequent opportunities of being
“ with her, unnoticed by her aunt.
“ She was a good-natured little prat-
“ tling thing, but not without her arts
“ of attraction; whenever I talked of
“ her youth, I observed that she pulled
“ up

“ up her swelling bosom, cast a
“ glance of approbation on it, and
“ adjusted her tucker, which I ne-
“ ver failed to return, by pulling up
“ and adjusting the frill of the bo-
“ som of my shirt, and looking down
“ affectedly at my feet. The ser-
“ vants I took care to keep in my
“ interest. She agreed at last to give
“ me her hand ; and it was proposed
“ that we should set off for Scotland,
“ and that her maid should accompany
“ us. Having thus brought things to
“ a crisis ; and finding she was possess-
“ ed of some very valuable diamonds,
“ I advised her by all means to take
“ those with her, as she could not
“ think of returning home, and it
“ was impossible to make a proper
“ appearance without them : she ac-
“ quiesced with the proposal, and the
“ day was fixed for her elopement ;
“ but, as the devil would have it, an
“ accident

“ accident happened that overthrew
“ all I had been about.

“ There being, at the house I was
“ at, an evening club, where the neigh-
“ bours used to meet, smoke their
“ pipes, and settle the affairs of ad-
“ ministration ; having been admitted
“ among them, I passed my time ra-
“ ther agreeably than otherwise. One
“ of the party was an elderly trades-
“ man, lately married to a smart young
“ woman, whom I had once or twice
“ seen, and was much taken with ;
“ but he was so much under petticoat
“ government, that she used to fetch
“ him home at night at a regular hour.
“ He had been often rallied on this
“ head, and was so greatly ashamed of
“ it, that, under a promise not to stay
“ longer than eleven, she agreed to go
“ to bed before him. Like other
“ babblers, who often lay open their
“ own affairs unasked, and frequently

“ to their prejudice, he gave us to un-
“ derstand, she was too jealous to suf-
“ fer the maid to sit up for him, and
“ that as the door would not unlock
“ on the outside, it was left upon the
“ latch. On being asked whether she
“ left a light. ‘ A light?’ says he,
‘ No.—Our house is not so large, but
‘ I can find my way up into my room
‘ without a light; we lay but on the
‘ one pair of stairs over the shop.’ I
“ was determined he should one day
“ pay dear for this communication,
“ and concerted it with the rest of the
“ company, to keep him from home
“ beyond his usual hour, to see
“ whether his wife would come the
“ next night to fetch him. Accord-
“ ingly, in the course of conversation,
“ talking of the uxoriousness of hus-
“ bands, I put my gentleman upon
“ the metal, and offered to lay him a
“ bet of two guineas, that he durst not
“ stay out that night till half after
“ twelve.

" twelve. From an opinion that his
 " wife would be asleep, and not know
 " the hour of his return, he took the
 " bet, and when the clock struck
 " eleven, was exceeding good com-
 " pany. About twenty minutes after,
 " I took a French leave, went over to
 " his house, lifted the latch, and with-
 " out much difficulty, found my way
 " into the chamber over the shop.
 " All was quiet, and the fair one
 " asleep. Having undressed myself at
 " the stair head without the door, I
 " stole into the room, and the reader
 " may suppose I was not long before I
 " was between the sheets. I had but
 " little time, and was determined to
 " make the best use of it. She soon
 " waked and spoke to me, but found
 " me not disposed to answer. How-
 " ever, whether she was able in the dark
 " to distinguish between her husband
 " and me, or any way discovered the
 " cheat, I know not ; but this I know,

“ she was as kind to me as I could
“ wish.—When I found her com-
“ posed, I began to retire ; but she
“ soon missed me from the bed, and
“ hearing me fumbling at the door,
“ and I not answering her when she
“ spoke, suspecting, I suppose, some
“ trick had been played her, she rose
“ with great anger, seized me by the
“ arm before I could get away, alarm-
“ ed the house, and I was unfor-
“ tunately discovered. I was, how-
“ ever, suffered to dress myself, and
“ return to my quarters.

“ This affair made a great noise in
“ the village, and presently reached
“ the mansion. The young lady I
“ was to accompany to Scotland took
“ offence at my conduct ; and I could
“ never get to see her again. Other
“ reasons might co-operate against me,
“ but I could not learn what they
“ were. I wrote one or two letters to
“ her, but all to no purpose. The
“ family

“ family presently left the country,
“ and I heard of her no more : it was
“ a *fortunate* event for her, but a
“ d—n’d *unlucky* one for me.

“ The injured husband determined
“ to prosecute me for violating the ho-
“ nour of his wife ; but the lawyers
“ could not well advise him how to
“ proceed. Some proposed indicting
“ me capitally for *burglary* ; lifting a
“ latch, and entering a dwelling-house
“ by night, if done with a felonious
“ intent, being a species of that crime ;
“ but as the wife was consenting to
“ the act, it could not be *felony*, of
“ course not burglary. The same ar-
“ gument prevented its being deemed
“ a *rape*. Others were for indicting
“ me for *grand larceny*, or *stealing*
“ *privately from the person* ; but what
“ did I steal ? Nothing but her con-
“ sent. This not being any thing
“ that could in fact be carried away,
“ the idea of proceeding on that sta-

“ tute fell to the ground. *Actions of*
“ *trespass, seduction, &c.* were then
“ proposed ; but the whole centered
“ at last in a prosecution for *crim. com.*
“ But this being more than I could
“ stand, I thought it better to decamp ;
“ and wishing, as you did, to hide
“ myself for a while, I made a pro-
“ posal to this company to join them,
“ and they admitted me among them.”

In this savage state, though I could boast of few indulgences, the life I led was orderly, and free from embarrassments. There was a strict discipline kept up among us, and a dread of being impeached kept the unruly in awe ; for had an information been laid by any individual of the gang against his comrades, the neighbouring magistrates would never have noticed it ; whereas an impeachment by the whole gang of any individual, would have been sufficient to have called out a war-
rant

rant against him ; so much was our company considered as a necessary evil. At our general meetings, each of us, by turns, was the cook for the day, till the last year of my time, when we took in three young women among us, one of whom, by the general voice, as ruler, was to be sacred to me, and the other two were in common among us all. They all proved pregnant before I quitted the company ; and though I did not continue long enough to see how they got over the difficulty, I understood they meant either to drop their bastards in some distant parish, lay them at the doors of some gentlemen's houses, or swear them to persons that had been their common disturbers. However, as I doubted the fidelity of *my* lady, I was not very uneasy about what became of her burthen. An event happened that determined me to quit the connexion ; and when it took place, I

left my right in her to my successor.

Information had been given us, that in a part of the forest, concealed under ground, a body of smugglers had stowed a considerable quantity of brandy and other things ; we found it out, and the booty consisted of 300 ankers of brandy, 200 half ankers of gin, and 25 bags of tea, containing 50lb. each. This being lodged at a neighbouring custom-house, it was condemned and sold, and our part of the money amounted to 540l. which, shared among eighteen, was 30l. a man : thinking I should never meet with a better opportunity of equipping myself for a more respectable employ, when in possession of the cash, I took a French leave of my companions, and never have heard any thing of them since.

It was in the summer time when I quitted the forest ; and the first place I retired

retired to was Lymington, where I staid long enough to get myself new dressed. It is almost inconceivable to think how I laboured to reconcile my past conduct with what is equitable and right. I have often thought, that it is with difficulty that men who have been brought up religiously, and with liberal notions, fall away from an honest course of life ; I felt myself hurt at that I was just emerged from, and endeavoured to convince myself, that I was not so bad as the world may suppose me, from the account I have here given. I began with reflecting, that fear had driven me from society, and that, like a hunted animal, I took shelter in the first place that offered : that I no sooner became a member of the company I have described, but I laboured to reclaim them, and flatter myself that I in a great measure succeeded ; from villains of the first denomination, I reduced them to scoundrels

of the second, made them rather serviceable to the community than otherwise ; and had they followed the example I pointed out by my own conduct, they might have separated and become honest men : I considered that, unlike bad statesmen, bad citizens of every class, who are a scourge to all men, we only were a scourge to the obnoxious ; and that if the necessities of a state can authorise and render equitable the general plunder of our enemy, both by sea and land, we did no more, though in a narrower scale ; we plundered only the enemies of the Customs, of the fair dealer, and of society. In a word, if I acted wrong, or an unequitable part in life, I took the first opportunity to relinquish it, and I wish every one could lay their hand upon their heart, and say the same.

I will finish this chapter with a striking anecdote on the subject. A merchant

chant of London was stopped on the highway by a man whom he soon discovered to have been once his servant. Instead of delivering his purse, as he was ordered, he began to reason with the robber. "Good God, Thomas, could I have supposed that you would have taken to this course of life; *you* whom I always imagined strictly honest?"—"Come, come, sir," replied the highwayman, "bad as I am, I'm as honest as you. Have not you employed your whole thoughts, time, and fortune, in fitting and sending out privateers to plunder the French, and other countries: and what is this but robbing on the highway?"—"As different," says the merchant, "as night and day, for we have declared *war* against the French." "If that be all the distinction," retorts the robber, "I have declared war against all mankind.—Therefore give me your
" money,

“ money, or by G-d I’ll blow your
“ brains out.”—“ The only difference
“ between you and me,” said a pirate
to Alexander the Great, who upbraided
him with piracy, “ is, that I com-
“ mit hostilities with a single *ship*, you
“ with a whole *fleet*.”

C H A P. V.

*Commences Physician. Observations on
the Arts of Medical Men.*

IN this great length of time, it may naturally be expected that I should have thought something of Miss Wildman, and have been anxious to have known the determination of the jury, respecting the death of the man I shot, if I really *had* killed him; but as in the course of the last chapter, I was unwilling to interrupt my narrative, I will tell the reader now, that scarce a day passed, but she was uppermost in my thoughts; her ring had never been off my finger, and I often kissed it with fervency, with the pleasing remembrance of the donor, and the animated hopes of calling her, one day, mine.

mine. Being out of the way of all information, and never having seen a newspaper, I was totally in the dark, respecting the transaction that occasioned my flight. In no public-house could I find papers so far back, and I was afraid to make any enquiry. Being now, however, in the world again, I thought proper to write to her, to let her know I was alive. The following is a copy of what I wrote.

“ MY DEAR MISS WILDMAN,

“ I am still in the land of the living, in good health, and in as good
“ spirits, as so long an absence from
“ you will admit of ; your ring, that
“ pledge of your constancy, has never
“ been off my finger ; of course, you
“ have never been out of my mind.
“ A fear of embarrassments, in consequence of the event, on the evening of the day I last saw you, drove
“ me from London, and indeed has
“ so far driven me from the world,
“ that

“ that I am totally ignorant of its re-
 “ sult; and of course, it keeps me
 “ still at a distance from you. I would
 “ be more particular in this letter, was
 “ I sure it would fall into no other
 “ hands but your’s; but, till I am
 “ convinced of this, expect nothing
 “ from me, but an assurance of the
 “ continuance of that affection I have
 “ so many times professed—the invin-
 “ cible and invariable attachment of
 “ your

“ G——.

“ P. S. Direct to A. B. C. at the
 “ Post-house at Salisbury.—I want for
 “ nothing.”

To Miss WILDMAN,
 at G. WILDMAN’s, Esq.
 Berkley-square, London.

I went over to Southampton pur-
 posely to put this letter into the post;
 and a fortnight after, when I had rea-
 son to expect an answer, I sent fre-
 quently to Salisbury to enquire for any
 letter

letter so addressed, and was every time disappointed; so that I concluded, my letter must either have been intercepted, or that she had proved unfaithful; the last I was unwilling to suppose, but, till I had an opportunity of making some enquiries, I gave up the idea of writing again.

Having dressed myself anew, and my hair being grown to its usual length, I called myself *Henry Savage*, alluding to the life I had lately led, and was ready again for any employ I could procure. On my informing the taylor who made my clothes, that I wished for a place, he told me, that Dr. Bolus, a physician at Salisbury, wanted a servant, and that he thought I might suit him. I accordingly, with the taylor's recommendation, applied to this gentleman, and was taken into his family as a footman. This master of mine, this son of Esculapius, had not been regularly bred as a physician, but

but served his time as an apothecary in the north of England. Having, however, failed as a dispenser of drugs, and finding an opening in this city, by the death of Dr. *Kill'em*, who had practised here thirty years; he writes down to a friend at Glasgow, with a remittance of twenty guineas; and a diploma, for destroying mankind *secundum artem*, was immediately dispatched by the stage coach. With this faculty of poisoning his Majesty's liege subjects, he sets up for a physician at Salisbury, and endeavoured to acquire practice, not by any medical abilities, but by art and finesse. All this I gathered before I had been with him a fortnight. He was a little man, about fifty years of age; wore a pair of square-toed shoes, his stockings rolled over his knees, a full trimmed coat with long skirts, and a full-bottomed wig that reached to his rump; so different was he accoutred from the physicians

ficians of the present age, that you would suppose him to have risen from the tombs. In short, he was no-body, for he was all wig and skirts; and in fact such a piece of affectation, that I wondered any one employed him. But he had withal a great deal of worldly cunning; and, in a communicative mood, one day told me, physic was a farce, and that it was astonishing the people were so taken in by it; that nature always did best when left to herself, and that a patient must be very bad indeed, to be in danger of dying, except when a physician is called in; that there are but three or four principal medicines in the whole *materia medica* of any real efficacy, and whose virtue almost every old woman is acquainted with; that a good tongue is of more use to a man in this profession, than all the learning of the hospitals; that illness, in general, so affects the spirits, that a sick person may
be

be almost persuaded to any thing, and that if a man knows but the art of concealing his ignorance, he may pass for one of the first rate abilities. "Often have I given in fevers," says he, "too strong a cathartic potion for the constitution of my patient, so as to excoriate his bowels and make him void blood; and having afterwards brought him round again by emollients, he has attributed his cure to such supernatural avoidance, when in fact it has gone near to kill him; and from the same reasoning, I often dread, that when I treat a disorder right, where it fails of success, I may be censured for my conduct; for, as when I have acted wrong, an ignorant patient has supposed it right, so may I be conceived to have proceeded ill, when in fact I have done the best."

"What all the world says must be true," is an old proverb, and the general

general opinion of practitioners in physic concurring in this point, is a corroboration of the fact. The following circumstance did not a little strengthen me in this conceit. Having been sent to a neighbouring apothecary for a medicine that had been ordered; the master, who had left his boy in the shop to make it up, coming out of a back room, and going behind the counter to see if it was finished, flew in a violent passion, and gave the boy a box on the ear, with “you young rascal, I knew this would be the case;” then addressing himself to me: “I told the scoundrel to make up a *vomit*, and he has made up a *purge* :” and on my observing, that had the one been sent and administered instead of the other, the consequences might have been fatal;—he answered coolly, “oh, no, not so much for that,—the woman it’s for, was to have been purged in
— the

“ the morning, and whether she is
 “ purged to-night and vomited to-
 “ morrow ; or vomited to-night and
 “ purged to-morrow, is very imma-
 “ terial ;—I am only angry that the
 “ blockhead should not have followed
 “ my directions.”

The reader may wonder how I came to be so great a favourite, as to be let into the secrets of this profession ; but he must know that my master had penetration enough to discern, in a very little time, that I had received a much better education than himself, and that I might be of great use to him: with this view he took me into his confidence, and one day asked me, if I thought I could compile him a treatise on nervous fevers ? I told him, that my medical knowledge was but little ; but, that if he would put into my hands two or three books upon the subject, I was very sure, that by twisting them and blending them together,

I could, as apothecaries do their drugs, make up a new composition, so different from the original materials, that it should neither have the colour, the taste, or the consistency of either, and yet should possess the inherent properties of them all.—I did this for him, he put his own name to it, and published it; and I have the vanity to think, that he acquired no small degree of reputation from it.

I wore a livery notwithstanding; for, as he could not afford to keep more than one man servant, and as a livery was a necessary appendage to a physician, I was obliged to wear that livery. Many a one of this profession has found it necessary to keep a chariot, who could not afford a joint of meat at his table. An equipage implies wealth; wealth is the consequence of extensive practice, and extensive practice must denote great medical knowledge; *therefore*, according to the

the rules of logic, an equipage denotes great medical knowledge, and is, of course, an essential appendage to the character of a physician.

Another artifice my master made use of to give him consequence in the town, was to be a member of the evening clubs, and my instructions were, before he had been twenty minutes at any one of them, to send for him out, with—"such a lady is taken suddenly ill, and he must make all the haste he can to be with her." He would apologize to his company for leaving them, explaining the necessity, and from this club he would go to another, where in twenty minutes more, I would call him away with a similar tale, and he would then go to a third, and so on; and as I took care to want him for some person of consequence, it did him much credit in the opinion of his acquaintance, and helped him on considerably in his

practice. Many a time have I run into church panting for breath, during the middle of service, upon the same errand; and brought him from his knees in his most *fervent* devotions.

My master found it necessary also to play into the hands of the apothecaries; they are always like the attornies to the counsellors, very good friends to the physicians. They have it in their power frequently to recommend whom they please; and when they have brought a patient pretty near to death's door, they are willing to transfer the honour of killing him to a more able practitioner; they will then advise a physician to be called in; and in this case generally recommend those who study most the interest of the apothecary. 'Tis on this account, a physician prescribes freely and profusely, and drenches the poor patient so immoderately, as if he meant to wash away the evil spirit by a deluge
of

of mixtures : so again, instead of ordering an emulsion, for example, in a pint bottle, and two spoonfuls to be taken every three hours, for which at most the apothecary can charge but two shillings, the doctor orders the same quantity in draughts, which will make eight, and, at one shilling each, will pay the apothecary eight shillings instead of two. They now and then make a bad debt ; but if they can contrive to get back their bottles, they don't suffer a great deal.

By these and such like means, in a very few months, he had more business than he could attend to, and proposed to me to visit his poorer patients, for which I should have half the fees. It will readily be supposed that I accepted the offer, and with the idea of studying under him, and calling in his assistance, if necessary, I had a great deal of employ. I learned his method of practice, which was mostly to at-

tend to nature, and assist her where it could be done. If a patient was inclined to sweat, we sweated him ; if to purge, we purged him ; if to vomit, we vomited him, and so on ; and if, by encreasing these evacuations too much, we sometimes sent one out of the world, yet, upon the whole, we saved a great many ; and for those whom we unfortunately lost, we always found a friend on our side ; for there is seldom a person dies that is so ill-beloved, but there is some one belonging to him that rejoices at his death, and is obliged to the physician for sending him out of a troublesome world : besides, it is a physician's best comfort that the dead cannot prosecute.

I had a suit of clothes made up for the purpose, which I occasionally put on ; at other times, I appeared in livery ; but, as my medical dress made a great alteration in my appearance,
the

the deception was never discovered; especially as I took care to put on a formal voice, with my formal dress.

Notwithstanding that thus I put a great deal of money in my pocket, I must own I had now and then my moments of remorse: I was hurried about me firebrands, arrows, and and on my intimating my one day to my master, he rallied me out of them with the following reasoning: "Physicians," says he, "have been long held as useful members to society, and if he who destroys but five men in a community, does less injury to the state than he who destroys ten; then, he who destroys but five is the most praise-worthy of the two: now, as it is universally allowed that *physicians* do take away more lives than they save, and we save more than we take away, it follows that we are the better men, and the more useful members of the

“state.” Though this argument would have admitted of debate, yet as few care to reason against their own interest, I submitted to my master’s superior judgment, and continued my practice for a considerable time.

I was always very particular as to the state of those patients I attended; and, if I could do no good, I was as careful as I could be, to do no harm. Though I knew little of pulses, like other physicians, I went through all the parade, counted each stroke with attention, and generally quitted the wrist with a significant nod of self-approbation. Sick persons are generally frightened, and seek for advice when advice is not necessary; such I would amuse with a gilded pill made up only of common dough, or a saline draught, which, if they did no good, would do no harm; they would at least leave the disorder to itself, and give the patient a chance of recovery; whereas others will, by
medicines,

medicines, throw back their patients, in order to lengthen their attendance, and encrease their fees: and I take merit to myself in this mode of practice, and am bold to say, was it more general, there would be a great decrease in the burials of this kingdom.

C H A P. VI.

*On Abstemiousness, and on the Conduct
of the College of Physicians.*

IT is allowed by sensible and dispassionate men, that the modern practice of physic is a farce—a far greater number are destroyed by it than saved. “I thought, doctor, you was out of town,” said a man to his physician, “by the decrease of deaths in the last week’s bills of mortality.” A man who employs no physician, if he is to die, will not be hurried out of the world, but will die at leisure. Who enjoy a better state of health in general than the poor, who cannot see a physician, or make it worth the apothecary’s while to keep them long in hand? And could a fair comparison be
made

made between the number of poor and rich that annually pay the debt of nature, it would certainly be found, that length of life is three to one in favour of the poor, notwithstanding the labour, the hardships, and the risks they are exposed to. Temperance is their physician, and exercise their nurse; and with an extra length of life, they enjoy, whilst they live, a greater degree of health.

However Dr. Cadogan's doctrine may be exploded, I dare assert (and I speak it from experience and observation) that intemperance destroys more than the sword, even in time of war. I mean intemperance in eating rather than in drinking. We arraign the conduct of those who drink to excess; and perhaps, because we see its ill effects; whilst we take little or no notice of those who eat to a like excess; whereas, in fact, the glutton is a more sordid wretch than the drunkard; and though

intemperance in eating is not attended with that outward unseemliness which accompanies excess of drinking, yet the former incapacitates the man as much for business and devotion as the latter. The person that prolongs his meals, and sacrifices his time, as well as his other conveniences, to his luxury, quickly outfits his pleasure, and bestows all the following time upon ceremony and surfeit, till at last, after a long fatigue of eating, and drinking, and babbling, he concludes the great work of dining like a gentleman ; and so makes shift to rise from table, that he may lie down upon his bed. Conviviality, cheerfulness, spirits, cordial warmth, may be excuses for *drinking* more than ordinary, and if it intoxicates for a time, it corrects many disorders brought on from accident, inattention to diet, and other things, such as flatulencies, crudities, &c. whereas immoderate *eating* is attended with in-

activity,

activity, heaviness, stupor, and lethargy ; not to mention the variety of disorders it gives birth to, when we little expect it. Medical men frequently prescribe wine and cordials, which is excess in drinking, as restoratives ; but, I believe, no one ever thought of advising a patient to overeat himself. In short, gluttony is equally a sin with drunkenness ; yet though there are more gluttons than drunkards, we seldom hear of a man's being censured for the former.

Feasting is now become a study ; and through the whole process, we proceed methodically, and with attention. It having been found, that when the spirits are up, we generally eat most * ; care is taken to keep the spirits
up

* The stomach is surrounded with a plexus of nerves, so that whatever affects the mind is presently communicated to the stomach. I have known a piece of ill news brought at dinner-time,

up by company, by wine, by music; and when by these stimulants we have almost eaten ourselves into a fever, coffee is introduced by way of sedative, or quieter of the system. Soon after tea is brought forward; and lest the tea should prey upon the nerves of the unstrung, we have a rectifier for this. *Maraschino*, or some other strong cordial, is handed round, and thus the ill effect of some things we eat is qualified or corrected by others.

Would men determine with themselves to be as cautious in eating as they are in drinking; that is, rise from table before they are too full, their intellects would be clear, their bodies active, and they would enjoy

time, entirely take away the appetite of the person it was brought to: so on the other hand, whatever tends to exhilarate the spirits adds to the appetite. Hence the introduction of music at feasts, and the custom of eating in company, provocatives that end too often in the destruction of the constitution.

much.

much better health than they do. Were we to eat only half the quantity we are accustomed to, in a few years, remedies for the gout, cachexy, inflammation, and the long train of disorders arising from indigestion, would be banished from our dispensaries, and men would live longer by ten or fifteen years. It is almost incredible to think how little will satisfy us. Lewis Cornaro, the Spaniard, lived one hundred and twenty years, and the last sixty years of his life, an egg served him for three meals: but he drank a pint of small wine every day. This man, from abstemiousness in eating, was as active at ninety as the generality of men are at forty. In short, rise from table with an appetite; never eat a thing that disagrees with you, or causes heart-burn; drink moderately, exercise freely; rise early, and go to bed early, and you may “give physic to the dogs.” But to resume my narrative.

Whilst

Whilst I was in this town I fortunately met with a file of newspapers, three or four years back ; and searching for the occurrences of the time when I had lived with Mr. Wildman, I discovered this paragraph : “ The
“ day before yesterday the following
“ accident happened in Berkley Square.
“ Some villains disguised as chairmen,
“ armed with deadly weapons, having,
“ at the instance of a man of fashion,
“ waylaid a gentleman’s valet, with a
“ view either of kidnapping him, or
“ putting him to death, were fired at
“ by the person they attempted to
“ seize, and one of them was killed on
“ the spot ; the jury sat upon the
“ body, and brought in their verdict,
“ *se defendendo* ; or, that the person
“ was killed in self-defence. The
“ gentleman’s porter was supposed to
“ be a party concerned, and was committed to Tothilfields prison.” This gave me a satisfaction I knew not how

to

to express; it relieved me from any danger I might dread from the event, and determined me to resume the name I had taken up on leaving my native place; but, as I was known in my great wig at Salisbury, by the name of Dr. Savage, I thought proper to go by that name whilst I there continued. Many an enquiry did I make at the Post-Office, in hopes of one day receiving an answer from Miss Wildman, but all to no purpose; and as I met with no one that knew any thing of the family, I was still in a state of suspense.

Whilst I was in the service of Dr. Bolus, which was upwards of two years, I became acquainted with the manager of a strolling company; and from the account of the pleasant way of life they led, and the encouragement I met with from this man to join them, I was induced to try my abilities upon the stage; and I was the more readily drawn into this attempt,
from

from an unwillingness to commit any more murder.

Indeed, the following circumstance turned the laugh so much against me, that I determined from that hour to quit the profession. A gentleman in the neighbourhood, on hiring an ignorant servant, thought proper to give him the following directions: “ It is
“ an unpleasant thing,” says he, “ to
“ be always directing. Every servant
“ should anticipate his master’s wants,
“ and not suffer him to call for things
“ that he knows are necessary. If
“ he is to shave, he should not only
“ bring the razors and the bason, but
“ the napkin, the soap, and all the
“ *et-cæteras*; if laying the cloth, he
“ should not forget the plates, the
“ knives, the spoons, and all the de-
“ coraments of the table; if waiting at
“ table, he should know with what
“ mustard is eaten, with what oil,
“ with what vinegar, pepper, and so
“ on,

“ on, and not suffer it to be asked for,
“ but hand it round in time. In short,
“ in whatever he is employed, he
“ should always remember and pre-
“ pare the *consequences*.” The servant
listened with attention, and promised
to obey his orders. This fellow had
not been long in the house before his
master was taken ill, and he was sent
to call me to attend him. Remember-
ing the directions he had received, he
not only fetched me, but also the apo-
thecary, the nurse, the undertaker,
and the grave-digger; and on his
master’s asking the reason of it, re-
plied, “ The apothecary, Sir, is the
“ consequence of the physician, at
“ least such a physician as Dr. Savage;
“ the nurse, of the apothecary; the
“ undertaker, of the nurse; and the
“ grave-digger is the natural conse-
“ quence of the whole; and as you
“ enjoined me never to forget, but
“ prepare the *consequences*, I have
“ brought

“brought them all.”—This story got abroad, very much to our disadvantage; and as the profession I followed was a service of lying and deception, I hated myself on account of it.

The conduct of the college of physicians hath as much hurt the credit of the profession as any thing in life; because they are authorised by an act of parliament to discountenance any pretenders to physic, and admit none to practise but such as have been regularly bred, and of course are supposed able to pass a good examination; they take the liberty to call upon all those who are not members of our two English universities, to take out a licence for the practice of physic. The expence of this licence is about eighty pounds, and the qualification required is a sufficiency of medical knowledge, ascertained by the candidate's passing an examination. No enquiry is made into the professional abilities of those
who

who have taken a degree at Oxford or Cambridge, though of all blockheads these places turn out the most in number ; but their enquiries seem directed against the students of the Dutch and Scotch seminaries, as if Leyden and Edinburgh had not given birth to as many able men as Oxford and Cambridge. The institution is a good one, but may be abused ; the health of the people ought to be the principal object of the society, and not their own interest ; but when it is known that the late Dr. Rock, of famous memory, was a licentiate of the College of Physicians, it will be thought of little consequence from whom the application comes, so that the eighty pounds are brought to discharge the fees. It may be Dr. *Rock* or Dr. *Last* *. A very learned friend of mine, a physician, whose medical abilities do honour to the pro-

* A shoe-maker so called in one of Foote's farces.

fession,

feſſion, but bred at Leyden, having been ſome time ſince called on by the College to take out a licence, on pain of being forbidden to act, ſpurned the very idea of *purchaſing* ſuch a licence, and ſent the College word, that he was willing to ſubmit to any examination they pleaſed to impoſe, and the more rigorous it was, the more agreeable it would be to him ; and that if they did not find upon enquiry, that he had more medical knowledge than half the College put together, then he would ſubmit to their mandate, not to praſtiſe ; but as to *paying* for their licence (which he was not ambitious to receive), either eighty pounds or eighty pence, he would do neither ; convinced, that the legiſlature, in inveſting them with that authority, meant only to protect the health of the people, and not fill the pockets of individuals. This ſpirited declaration had its effect ; they dared not to call him forth to ſuch an examination,

mination, and I believe he stands alone, a practising physician in London, unlicensed by the College.

That they are a useless body of men combined, I apprehend is universally allowed; the following fact will bear me out in the assertion. A gentleman who had the honour of being physician to the late King, calling accidentally on a city friend, and enquiring after the family, was told the mistress of the house was just brought to-bed of a dead child. Having but an indifferent opinion of men-midwives, to which the family was partial, he begged the father of the child to let him see the infant; and from what he saw, he was desirous of seeing the surgeon that laid her, being convinced it had been destroyed in the birth. The man-midwife was sent for, and on being privately asked how he came to commit so horrid a deed; his answer was, "He did it at the earnest
" request

“ request of the father.” This piece of intelligence the Doctor communicated to a female friend, a midwife who attended the royal family, and who, in hopes of checking such acts in future, commissioned him to represent this story, among others equally atrocious, to the college of physicians, and to offer the sum of one thousand pounds to that society, in order to found a course of lectures on midwifery, to be annually read to female practitioners, provided they would patronise it : but the College refused it ; and, for this inattention to the lives and health of the public at large, they were severely handled by the same physician in a pamphlet he soon after published, entitled, *A Petition of the unborn Babes of England, to the Censors of the College of Physicians.*

From all these circumstances, so prejudicial to the character of the medical profession, and from the despicable opinion

opinion I entertained of it, I was determined to withdraw myself from it ; to throw off my great wig, and live in future by the *inside* of my head. I did not, however, acquaint my master with my reasons, but left him under a pretence of bettering my situation.

VOL. II.

G

C H A P. VII.

*Joins a Company of Strollers. Some
Account of their Performances.
Meets with Miss Slash'em.*

THE company I was to join was not the best equipped in the world; the manager had met with misfortunes. In removing from Winchester to Salisbury, the waggon conveying his wardrobe, scenery, &c. took fire from the dryness of the axletrees, and destroyed his whole *property**; and since this disaster, he had not been able to refit as before. He had come over to Salisbury for a piece of water, a cloud or two, and a few

* *Property*, in stage language, implies all the apparatus of the theatre.

odd things, and was upon his return to Winchester when he engaged me. He would have had me have made my appearance in tragedy; but, as farce was my forte, and as a player generally acquits himself best in a part to which he has been accustomed, I determined to come out in the *Mock Doctor*; and as the character I had played of Dr. Savage had furnished me with a dress, and his wardrobe was small, he the more readily consented. I soon made myself master of the part, and wished only for an opportunity of shewing him what I could do. But the time was not come; for, though we had got to Winchester, which was to be our scene of action, the company had not met.

In the interim we had a great deal to do; we had not only our theatre to get ready, and fundry matters belonging to it to prepare, but we had an application to make to the mayor for

leave to perform; and as he was a strange kind of man, our manager requested I would wait upon him for the purpose. He was an oilman by trade, as big round as one of his butts; had been exceedingly low bred, and was very proud of his office. When I entered his shop, he was serving a woman with a penny-worth of pickles, and was wrist-deep in the jar. On my telling him, "I waited on him as "mayor of the town."—He put his dirty hand to my mouth, with a "Hold, "friend, not a word till I'm in the "Justice-room;" so saying, having taken the money for his pickles, and wiped his hand on a filthy apron he had before him, he waddled into a back room, and desired me to follow him. When we were got into this place, which was something like a counting-house, I began afresh: "I "have taken the liberty, Sir,"—but he again interrupted me with, "Why, "friend,

“ friend, you’re in a plaguy hurry.—

“ Let me get into my great chair

“ first.”—I begged his worship’s par-

don, submitted to etiquette, and when

he was fairly enthroned, I told him

my business; that I was one of a com-

pany of players, just arrived at Win-

chester; and that as I understood he

was mayor of the corporation, I waited

on him to request his leave to perform.

“ Hark’ee, young man,” says he, in a

bellowing voice, “ though we civil

“ magistrates are mortal enemies to

“ any thing that looks like an armed

“ force; I’d rather, d’ye see, see a

“ parcel of soldiers come into the town

“ than a parcel of playmen, to pick

“ our pockets, and corrupt our wives

“ and daughters.”—At the mention of

these last words, his wife, who had

been listening at the door, bolted into

the room, and asked “ what business

“ he was upon that occasioned him to

“ mention her.” His worship imme-

G 3 diately

diately softened his tone, and replied,
“ Nothing, my dear, that concerns
“ you ; it is only a parcel of playmen
“ that want to play ‘their rig in the
“ town, and I won’t let ‘em.” “ Not
“ *let* ‘em, Mr. Girkin !” retorts she,
“ and what’s the matter you *won’t* let
“ ‘em ? If you want to be *poplar*, you
“ *will* let ‘em, and there’s nothing
“ like being *poplar*, while one keeps
“ shop.” “ But, do you know, my
“ dear,” returns his worship, “ what a
“ world o’ harm these player-volks
“ *does* ?” “ A f—t of the harm,”
says she, “ what’s that to *us* ?—It
“ will keep families up late, and we
“ shall sell more candles and oil on
“ that account.” “ Why—aye, to be
“ sure,” replies the mayor, “ there is
“ something in that.”—“ What’s the
“ hour, Mr. Playerman, you mean to
“ show away ?”—About half after
six, I told him, and end about half
after ten. “ No,” says he, “ that’s
“ too

“ too soon, shops are scarce shut by
“ that time ; make it *seven*, and you
“ shall have my consent ; for the bu-
“ siness of the day *must* be over before
“ I can suffer any May-games to take
“ place.” I told his worship we
would obey his directions ; and turn-
ing round to thank Mrs. Girkin for her
seasonable interference, she, with a nod,
gently flapped me on the shoulder, wish-
ed us success, and told me, if we played
Alexander the Great the first night, she
would certainly be there, for she loved
Alexander to her life—he was such a
proper man. As I was going out at
the door, his worship bawled out—
“ Remember we sell oil and candles.”

Having obtained permission to open
our house, our next business was to
find one to open ; for since our mana-
ger's misfortune, a fresh company had
taken possession of the town, and
though these were playing at South-
ampton, it was not clear that we could

have the use of their theatre. On enquiry we found it as we expected, and had another place to prepare. This business delayed us some time, but it gave me an opportunity of learning a part or two to begin with, Alexander the Great exceeding the strength of our forces; for, when we mustered them on paper, we could not make a greater number, men, women, and children, than fifteen. It was settled, therefore, that the first piece got up should be *Othello*, or *the Moor of Venice*, and that I should take the part of the Moor. Having a tolerable good memory, I became perfect in it sooner than I expected, and our company dropped into town from different parts pretty nearly together. But our principal heroine had not made her appearance yet. Our manager told me, she belonged to a company in Buckinghamshire, and that he had some difficulty to engage her; however, he
had

had happily succeeded, and she would be his chief strength; for she was a very pretty woman and a good player both in tragedy and comedy, and had a very sweet pipe. She was to be my Desdemona.

We soon procured a tolerable room, and sufficiently large. It had been a carpenter's workshop, and was quickly fitted up for our purpose. As this lady sent us word that she could not join us till the week after we had proposed to open, we determined to commence without her; of course I had only to play in the after-piece, and had time to get up two or three more parts. Being a new performer, it was proposed by our manager, that on the nights I and this new woman performed, the profits of the house should be divided into three parts, of which each of us should have one. This was a spur to my industry, and I was desirous to get up as many characters as

I could. Among the rest, were Romeo, Hamlet, Marplot, Archer, Benedict, and Bobadil.

The entertainments given out for the first night were, *the Journey to London*, and the *Mock Doctor*; and though we designed to begin at seven, in compliment to the mayor, the house did not fill till near eight; and such was our misfortune, that we were obliged to study his worship's interest more than we intended, for we could not begin till the house was pretty nearly full, and sufficient money was taken at the door, to release our wardrobe from pawn. This circumstance I was not made acquainted with, till the house was opened. However, good luck stood our friend, we took eleven pounds presently, and that did the business. The clothes were brought in, and as our heads and legs were ready dressed, we had only to slip on the remainder. I was not in that predicament

cament myself, being dressed in the character of Dr. Savage; yet I felt for the embarrassment of my friend the manager, and rejoiced with him at his delivery.

The first night went off pretty well, no accident happening, but a piece of candle falling into the bushy part of Sir Francis's wig, which set fire to it; and Miss Jenny being almost pressed to death by Count Basset, who was beat down flat upon her, by the fall of a house, owing to the carelessness of one of the scene-shifters. The consequences, however, were no way fatal. The fire in Sir Francis's wig was soon extinguished, by my lady's wrapping up his head in her wet handkerchief; for having a cold, her nose had run profusely: and Miss Jenny gave us to understand, that there was no harm done to *her*, for as she lay on her back, the count's weight was not more than she could very well bear. It created a

laugh in the house, and the audience departed in good humour.

It may be expected I should say something of myself, but modesty enjoins me to say no more, than *Dr. Savage* being only a *mock-doctor*, I was equally at home both in one part and the other. Whether it was owing to me or the other performers, I will not pretend to determine; but the farce was so much liked, that we played nothing else for six successive nights, and the house was always full. It held seventeen pounds, and as the expences were eleven, the manager put six in his pocket; but, not considering me yet as part of his establishment, out of these six he gave me one, and as we performed three times a week, I thought it a great deal of money.

Finding we were likely to succeed, we enlarged our theatre, and made it hold twenty-seven pounds; and we added an additional fiddle to our band,
which

which before consisted only of two violins and a violincello; for we had it in contemplation to perform comic operas. Two of our company, indeed, could not sing, but we had a plan to make up the deficiency. Whenever these had a song to sing, they were to stand pretty near the side scenes, and a person without was to sing it for them: we, by a similar contrivance, performed the Beggar's Opera, and the manager found me exceedingly useful, as I could cut down a play to any number of characters. Now, there being more characters in this piece than our small company could fill, I cut out all the whores and rogues, but two of each sort, being persuaded, that in these wicked and expensive times, two rogues were enough to corrupt any man, and two whores sufficient to ruin him.

The week following our new heroine joined us, and never was I more
amazed

amazed in my life; for who should this young lady be, but Miss Biddy Slash'em, the daughter of Dr. Slash'em of Highgate, where I was first received on my journey towards London. It was on a Saturday evening that she arrived, an evening that we did not perform, and the manager, myself, and two or three of the principals, were regaling over a bowl of punch at a public-house. The manager was called out, in order to introduce her, and on her entering the room, the instant she saw me, she flew into my arms with rapture, and the next moment, as in a paroxysm of rage, she caught hold of my ears, and shook me, till I was obliged to bawl out for relief; then again, she almost smothered me with caresses, and next burst into a flood of tears. It is natural to conceive, that this inequality of conduct, this conflict of passions, this mixture of love and anger, must have been

been mysterious to all present but to me. I was conscious I had not treated her well, in omitting to correspond with her, and that for reasons the reader will by-and-by know. However, she soon recovered herself, apologised to the company for her behaviour, said I was the oldest acquaintance she had, and that her transports in seeing me, where she so little expected it, had totally confused her.

Differences being adjusted, and matters of ceremony settled, our topics became general, rolled upon the state of the company, the success we had met with, and our plan of operations in future; and towards the close of the evening, the manager conceiving, as old acquaintance, we might wish to be left together; when the bowl was out, he proposed retiring, and left us to ourselves.

We were no sooner alone, but she burst into tears again, upbraided me
3 with

with my cruel conduct, declared how much she loved me, and said she had suffered greatly on my account. I begged she would suspend her opinion of my conduct, till she had heard my story, which I would relate to her the first opportunity; but that it was too long, and too interesting, to enter into, at so late an hour in the evening. I asked her, if she was provided with a lodging, she replied she was, and hoped I would breakfast with her in the morning; which having promised to do, I conducted her home, and left her.

C H A P. VIII.

Miss Slash'em's History. Remarks upon Quakers : and a Parish Disposal of Bastard Children.

THE next morning I waited on Miss Slash'em at her lodgings, and found her neatly and elegantly dressed to receive me ; she was grown tall and slender, and had a fire in her eye that I never observed before. I could not help telling her, that I thought she was grown very handsome, and that I was sorry to see her in no better situation than myself, reduced for bread to join a strolling company of players. She in return told me, that her meeting with me compensated for the rubs that she had met with, and they were not a few. She reminded

reminded me of having promised to recount my story, and I told it as faithfully as I have laid it before my readers, excepting my attachment, with the vows I had made to Miss Wildman, and an untruth or two I was obliged to tell, of having twice written to her, and receiving no answer.

When I came to that part of my story, respecting the accident at Mr. Wildman's door, she corroborated the paragraph I had read in the newspapers, and told me she had so far enquired, as to find, that the coroner's inquest had acquitted me, and that the porter, though committed to prison, as I did not appear against him, was discharged at the following sessions.

When I had ended my story, which she observed, for the little time we had been separated, was the fullest of events she had ever heard of, she gave me her's in the following manner.

“ You

“ You must remember, my dear
“ fellow, the critical situation you left
“ me in : I concealed it as long as I
“ could ; but not hearing from you,
“ and having no friend to apply to, I
“ was under a necessity of discovering
“ it to my mother, and making a
“ friend of her. ‘ Hufsey,’ says she,
‘ this comes of your hanging about
‘ the men.’ And though she rated me
“ roundly for my misconduct, as I ap-
“ plied to her feelings, as a woman
“ and my mother, she wished, if pos-
“ sible, to keep it secret from my fa-
“ ther ; but that was impracticable ;
“ he had too keen an eye, not to see
“ a visible alteration in my person,
“ and knew too much of the world,
“ as he called it, to be *bum-bugg’d*.
“ In short, it was known to him three
“ months before I lay in, and no poor
“ devil, between father and mother,
“ lived a more wretched life ; up-
“ braidings without number, and all
“ forts

“ sorts of unkind treatment. In short,
“ *your* cruel usage, added to theirs, so
“ distressed me, that I was worn to a
“ shadow; and had they not relaxed
“ in their severity, near the time of
“ my lying-in, I believe I should have
“ died. Indeed, I so frequently told
“ them so, that *they* began to believe
“ it: they, on this consideration, were
“ less severe to me at the last, and I
“ made shift to live through the try-
“ ing time, having brought into the
“ world a still-born boy.—There ap-
“ pearing now to be no living witness
“ of my shame, and my father not
“ likely to be at any further expence,
“ after I was recovered, he began to
“ soften his brow, and to reconcile the
“ matter to himself; but never could
“ be brought to look upon me again
“ with that pleasure and satisfaction
“ he had formerly done. In short,
“ the life I then led determined me to
“ quit it, whenever I had an opportu-
“ nity,

“ nity, and this opportunity soon of-
 “ fered ; for having a strolling com-
 “ pany in the village, which I heard
 “ were removing, I wrote a note to
 “ the manager, who was a single
 “ man, and whom I had seen, to this
 “ effect :

“ S I R,

“ A damsel in distress stands in need
 “ of protection ; she fancies she has
 “ abilities for the stage, or for any
 “ thing ; if you are inclined to try
 “ them, and have spirit enough to
 “ bring a ladder and carry her off se-
 “ cretly, you will find her at the one
 “ pair of stairs window of the red
 “ house, opposite the lamp post, No.
 “ 119, on the road to London, on
 “ Friday morning next, between three
 “ and four o'clock.”

“ For, as you know my mother used
 “ to take the keys of the outer doors
 “ up into her room, I had no other
 “ way

“ way of escaping. I prepared every
“ thing for my elopement, put up my
“ clothes in a bundle, and on the ap-
“ pointed morning, being just break
“ of day, I stole down to the window;
“ and though I doubted of seeing the
“ person I waited for, I no sooner
“ opened the shutter, than I found my
“ Ranger with a ladder ready, and
“ with all the vivacity and spirit I
“ could wish. He handed me out,
“ and we got clear off. It was a fine
“ morning, and we walked away for
“ Hampstead, where he had provid-
“ ed me a retreat, having thrown the
“ ladder over a hedge by the road
“ side. Here he kept me a week,
“ and lived with me till his company
“ removed to St. Albans, and we then
“ followed.

“ Your good sense, my dear Ga-
“ briel, will forgive me this rash act.
“ Could I have had *your* protection, I
“ would have preferred it to that of
“ all the men in the world; but as you
“ had

“ had deserted me, and my life was
“ wretched, from a persuasion that it
“ could not be more so, I ventured
“ upon the change. It was a bold en-
“ terprize, as I was then scarce nine-
“ teen. Mr. Rider, for that was my
“ friend's name, was a tolerable good
“ player, took a great deal of pains
“ with me, and made me capable of
“ earning my living before I had been
“ three months with him. I came
“ out at first in very trifling parts ;
“ but, before we left St. Albans, I had
“ played Juliet, Desdemona, and two
“ or three other capital characters,
“ and acquitted myself so well, that I
“ began to think of standing upon my
“ own bottom.

“ I had not been a great while at
“ St. Albans before my father found
“ me out, and wrote to me. After
“ condemning my conduct, and some
“ few chidings on that account, he
“ proceeded to tell me, that if I would
“ quit

“ quit the way of life I was in, re-
“ turn home, and be useful about the
“ house, that both he and my mother
“ would receive me kindly :——but I
“ returned him for answer, that I was
“ making great proficiency in the pro-
“ fession I had taken up, and had the
“ vanity to think, that, in a little time
“ I should be at the top of it. I thank-
“ ed him for his offer, but I would
“ rather continue as I was ; particu-
“ larly as I could not be more dis-
“ graced than I had been, and as his
“ circumstances were not so great, but
“ he could dispense with a useless per-
“ son about him. After this letter he
“ left me to myself, and I never was
“ importuned again upon the subject.
“ —I have written to my mother once
“ or twice since, not to ask any assist-
“ ance, but merely to enquire after
“ her and my father ; but, as I never
“ could obtain an answer, I wrote no
“ more. All I know is, that, on en-
“ quiry

“ quiry from a person who was lately
“ in the neighbourhood, I find that
“ they are both well, and that his
“ school has very much encreased.

“ I continued with Mr. Rider up-
“ wards of three quarters of a year,
“ when a circumstance happened that
“ occasioned our separation. Whilst
“ I was at St. Alban’s, a linen-draper’s
“ apprentice, a good-humoured lad,
“ took a liking to me, and was ever
“ behind the scenes, industriously at-
“ tentive to please me; and as he was
“ a generous youth, though without
“ money, and would frequently pre-
“ sent me with a muslin handkerchief
“ or two, half a dozen pocket hand-
“ kerchiefs, an apron, and other ne-
“ cessary articles, I found it my inte-
“ rest to keep in with him——.”

“ In short, no matter what it was,”
interrupted I, “ so he brought some-
“ thing.—You put me in mind, my
“ dear Biddy, of the duchess of Ken-

“ dal, mistress to George the first.
“ That prince being disposed to give
“ her a service of plate, sent his sil-
“ versmith to her for her orders as to
“ fashion, and so on. ‘ As to fashion,’
“ says she, ‘ I am indifferent; all I de-
“ sire is, that you will make it *thick*
“ and *heavy*.’ I don’t suppose you en-
“ quired how he came by these articles
“ he gave you.”

“ Not I, indeed,” continued she,
“ that was no part of *my* concern: I
“ suppose he paid his master for them.
“ —They were acceptable to me, and
“ I took them, and, when we remov-
“ ed to Hertford, this young man one
“ Sunday came over to see me, at a
“ time when Mr. Rider was from
“ home, and not being able to get him
“ away so soon as I wished, Mr. Rider
“ returned, and entered the room un-
“ expectedly at the moment the poor
“ boy was squeezing my hand in rap-
“ tures. Mr. Rider grew jealous from
“ this

“ this hour, and was seldom after in
 “ a good humour. I told him, there-
 “ fore, frankly, that I would continue
 “ no longer with him, but leave him
 “ and his company to themselves; I
 “ accordingly applied to the manager
 “ of the Buckingham theatre, and as
 “ he wanted a woman in my cast of
 “ parts, I immediately joined his com-
 “ pany, at a salary of four and twenty
 “ shillings a week; and he, being a
 “ musical man, taught me to sing; so
 “ that I am now a general player.
 “ Tragedy, comedy, opera, farce—
 “ nothing comes amiss to me.”

“ And have you,” says I, “ conti-
 “ nued with them till now?”

“ With some little interruption,”
 returned she, “ I have. I went on
 “ pretty smoothly for the first year;
 “ when an old quaker at Buckingham,
 “ who had more of the sinner in him
 “ than the saint, and was reputed to
 “ be very rich, invited himself to

“ drink tea with me at my lodgings ; I
“ received him, and he made me a
“ formal proposal of taking me to live
“ with him, with a—‘ Verily friend
“ Slash’em, thou hast a leering eye
“ and a bewitching form, that stirreth
“ my whole frame : I have been, since
“ I saw thee, in such an eternal fidget,
“ that I never shall be again composed,
“ till thou condescendest to make me
“ happy.’ I gave him to understand,
“ that, in the profession I was in, I
“ earned a great deal of money ; that
“ if he took me out of it, I should be
“ a considerable loser, for that I might
“ find an unwillingness to return, and
“ that, of course, I could not think of
“ changing my situation, unless he
“ would settle fifty pounds a year up-
“ on me, which he consented to, and
“ I went home in a few days after to
“ his house :—you will scarce credit
“ the assertion, but it is nevertheless
“ true, that quakers, notwithstanding
“ their

“ their outward formality and stiffness,
“ are as wanton as boys, and put on
“ their formality only with their
“ clothes. Mr. Broadbrim, the gen-
“ tleman I lived with, was about sixty
“ years of age, and very much re-
“ spected among the brotherhood. I
“ was dressed like one of them, and
“ passed for his house-keeper, and
“ might have continued long with
“ him, had not the friends began to
“ smoke him, as they called it, and
“ found out who I was. ‘ Truly,
‘ friend Broadbrim,’ said an old ac-
“ quaintance to him one day, and
“ which I overheard from the next
“ room, ‘ thy housekeeper favoureth
‘ too much of the flesh, and betrayeth
‘ an impurity that becometh not thy
‘ age and outward sanctity.’—‘ Eben-
‘ ezer,’ said Mr. Broadbrim to him,
‘ Let not thy tongue outrun thy dis-
‘ cretion. Flesh is sometimes neces-
‘ sary to cheer the spirits and comfort

‘ the outward man. I can discover
‘ by thy eyes, that *thou* also hast thy
‘ wanton moments, and that though
‘ thy flesh be weak, thy spirit is will-
‘ ing.’ It was not always he could
“ get off so well: in short, he was so
“ laughed at by the young men, and
“ jeered by the old, that he could not
“ hold up against their ridicule, and
“ having been threatened with an ex-
“ pulsion from the society, which he
“ dreaded more than any thing, he
“ told me one day, unwilling as he
“ was, he must part with me, but
“ that the fifty pounds a year I was
“ welcome to keep; and if I did not
“ expose him, he would be a friend
“ to me whilst he lived. I according-
“ ly quitted him, and returned to the
“ way of life I was in before; joining
“ the Buckingham company again, at
“ my former salary; but, as my own
“ mistress, with the addition of fifty
“ pounds a year regularly paid every
“ half

“ half year. Our manager dying soon
 “ after, the company broke up, and I
 “ am engaged here as you find me.”

I took the liberty to ask her some questions respecting the quakers; she replied—‘ that, indeed, she did not
 ‘ know a great deal of them, having
 ‘ never conversed with any one of
 ‘ them till she became acquainted with
 ‘ Mr Broadbrim; but that he had an
 ‘ universal acquaintance among the
 ‘ fraternity, and they were frequently
 ‘ at his house; that as far as she could
 ‘ judge, they were the greatest dis-
 ‘ semblers in life; and that she believ-
 ‘ ed, though they professed more can-
 ‘ dour and more sincerity than the rest
 ‘ of the world, they at the same time
 ‘ had less of it; that she knew it was
 ‘ a custom among them to have false
 ‘ bills of parcels to shew to their cus-
 ‘ tomers, by which they ascertained
 ‘ their profit to be very small, when,

in fact, it was very large, and under a pretence of dealing for discount only, that discount was twenty-five or thirty per cent.' I know the Birmingham manufacturers allow a discount of twenty-five per cent. upon their bills, for ready money, and if a retailer gets no more, he gets a great deal too much. But as my opinion of Miss Slash'em's judgment was but indifferent, I ceased making any further enquiries.

She would fain have urged me to live in the same apartment with her; but I excused myself, under the declaration of being the most inconstant fellow alive, and the most unsettled; that it was uncertain whether I continued in the profession I was in, one month or twelve; but that whilst I did, and that we were within reach of each other, I would see her, when she pleased, and where she pleased; and

should always think myself happy when I had it in my power to be of use to her.

It may appear strange that one upon the town as I was, should decline Biddy Slash'em's proposal, whose purse as well as person would have been at my command; but the truth is, I hated a settled connexion. I will be honest enough to own, that I frequently yielded to the bent of human nature, and if I had occasionally a child or two sworn to me unjustly, I compromised the matter with the parish where it was born, on the best terms I could, which seldom exceeded ten pounds and a treat to the overseers of the poor. That ten pounds will not bring a child up till it is able to get its living, we all know; but these guardians of the infant poor are charitable enough to remove it from a sinful world as soon as possible. At an entertainment I gave upon one of these

H 5 occasions,

occasions, the church-warden intimated, when half drunk, that ten pounds was a good price for a bastard child, as wrapping it up a night or two in a wet blanket, seldom failed of sending it to Heaven presently.

Those who manage the affairs of the poor well, seldom fail to profit considerably by such management. In small parishes, housekeepers will frequently pay a fine to be excused serving parish offices, but not so in populous and extensive ones. I have known an inhabitant of St. Giles in London, make as much interest, and open as many houses, to get chosen church-warden, as a man would, to be returned member for a borough, and both, perhaps, with a similar view, that of enriching themselves at the public expence. The church-warden, perhaps, is a grocer, a chandler, a butcher, or a baker, and has thus not only an opportunity of supplying the poor at his

own

own price, but making a number of friends among those he shall think proper to employ for the same purpose. Besides, great sums of money pass through his hands; and there are few tradesmen but know well how to profit by such a circumstance. Indeed, whilst the affairs of the poor require management, the law obliges this arduous office to be undertaken by some of the inhabitants. What a happiness it is to think they can enrich themselves by the undertaking!

C H A P. IX.

*Theatrical Business. An Adventure at
Miss Slash'em's.*

ON the day following our strength being augmented, we gave out *Romeo and Juliet*. I was to play Romeo, and Miss Slash'em Juliet, and we had a full house; but it so happened, that when I came to the tomb-scene, though I had rehearsed it several times before, having nothing but the handle of an old spade to force the door, I was so out of humour, that I drove at it with more violence than was requisite, and the whole fabric came down upon poor Juliet, who lay within, and I upon the top of it; she received a contusion on her forehead, and screamed as for life. The audience

dience thinking she was more hurt than in reality she was, took part in her distress, and many of them jumped upon the stage to extricate her from her difficulty; and when they found she had a bump on her face, they very humanely excused our going on with the piece, and desired they might have the farce. It was the *Mock Doctor* again, and I acquitted myself with such eclat, that the accident in the play was forgotten.

The next day the Mayor's lady, Mrs. Girkin, sent to us to beg we would play Alexander the Great, and though it required for the procession a greater stock of clothes than our wardrobe could furnish, and we made this as an excuse, yet the difficulty was got over, as, through her interest, we were to have the use of half a dozen surplices from the college, and as many vergers coats from the abbey; and if we wanted it, she said, we should have
the

the Mayor's mace, and the rest of the *insignia* of his office: but the *gentleman* who was to play Alexander (for all players, be they ever so low, are gentlemen and gentlewomen); I say, the gentleman who was to play Alexander, observed that the crown was not come from the tinman's, and a man might as well attempt the character of a general without a truncheon, as a king in procession without a crown. This want was too great to admit of any substitute, and the death of Alexander was obliged to be postponed till a farther day.

With the assistance of brown paper and vinegar, Miss Slash'em soon got rid of the protuberance on her forehead, and in a day or two, we were to appear in the characters of *Othello* and *Desdemona*; the evening came, and the house was again as full as it could hold. Seldom a night we played, but some awkward accident occurred that
made

made the audience laugh as much at a tragedy, as at the drollest farce we could perform; and I verily believe, the hopes of such accidents drew more to the theatre than any real inclination to see the piece; and fortune, some how or other, concurred to be of use to us in this particular. I had blacked my face for the character of the Moor, and finding the house full, was in the best of spirits; and my Desdemona looking more lovely than I had ever seen her, having never rehearsed the part with my face blacked, I forgot myself, and when I was to embrace her, I could not resist kissing her with fervency; the misfortune was, the black came off from my face upon her's, the house laughed immoderately, and she was so mortified, that she gave me such a back-handed slap on the face as set my mouth a-bleeding: the house was in a roar of applause, and

and nothing was heard from all parts of it but *encore, encore.*

I mention these occurrences as the only matters worthy observation in such a vagabond company as I had the honour to belong to. If it hurt our reputation, it however filled our pockets, for the nights I played, I seldom divided less than between four and five pounds.

In a very few days the crown was completed, and the play of Alexander given out; but Mrs. Mayorefs having sprained her ankle, could not possibly be present; it was lucky, indeed, that she *had* sprained her ankle, as she would have been disappointed in the performance. Alexander the Great having, the night before, drank too many libations to the god Bacchus, at the ale-house where he spent the evening; had quarreled with some of the company, and had beat one man very much.

much. The consequence was, that he got a warrant from the Mayor, and just as the piece was going to begin, a constable found his way behind the scenes, seized Alexander by the collar, and took him away in his royal robes to Mr. Girkin's justice-room, with a whole mob behind him, and on Mrs. Girkin's enquiring who all that rabble was below; his worship told her, with a degree of pleasantry, "That, as she
" was too lame to go to the play-
" shop; Alexander the Great, with
" his body guards, was come to play
" the part at her house." In short, this unlucky circumstance obliged us to apologize to the audience for changing the piece, and another was exhibited in its room.

The Mayor, in his time, had been a gallant spark, and a great admirer of the ladies, and though he was now on the verge of sixty, he had somehow or other been smitten by the Cupids in

Miss

Miss Slash'em's eyes, and longed for nothing so much as a tête-à-tête with her; but the difficulty was how to see her, and not fall under the observation of his wife, who, when her resentment was roused, was one of the greatest viragos in the city of Winchester. He had once expressed an inclination that Mrs. Girkin would ask Miss Slash'em some afternoon to tea. "Miss Slash'em to tea!—Invite
" a vagabond player to *our* house to
" tea!" exclaimed Mrs. Girkin. "Sure
" man, you must be out of your
" senses!—What's become of all your
" *dignity*, Mr. Girkin? What do you
" think the ladies of our corporation
" would say, were they to hear of
" such a thing?—We should be the jest
" of the whole city." This Mr. Mayor told Miss Slash'em one afternoon at her lodgings, and she told it to me again; for, finding his wife would not receive her, he found a way to invite himself
to

to the object of his wishes, by waiting on Biddy Slash'em with a present of a small jar of olives, as an acknowledgment, he was pleased to say, for the entertainment she had afforded him at the play-shop, Biddy, who, I found, was always open-handed, more ready to receive than people are to give, and nothing seeming to come amiss to her, encouraged the Mayor's visits, as she had done those of the linen-draper's apprentice at St. Alban's; and indeed he was there oftener than it was convenient or agreeable to *me*. He used to visit her in the evenings we did not perform, under a pretence of going to a new established club. But his wife suspected him, had him traced, and found out his haunts.

One morning at breakfast with Miss Slash'em, she gave me the following account of the last of the Mayor's visits: "The evening before last," said she, "he tapped at my door, calling
"ing

“ ing in an under voice, ‘ my dear
“ Biddy, are you alone ?’ I told him
“ I was, and he waddled in with a
“ bottle of Lucca olives in his hand,
“ which, he said, he brought for my
“ own eating ; they were just import-
“ ed, and some of the best of the
“ kind—he begged for a plate that he
“ might show me how good they
“ were. I handed a plate, and he
“ turned them out, for the bottle
“ held but a pint. Few as there
“ were, he fell voraciously to work,
“ and would scarce give me an oppor-
“ tunity of tasting them. I put one
“ into my mouth out of complaisance,
“ and indeed *but* one, as ’tis a fruit I
“ am not very fond of. He asked me
“ to take another, but I told him, I
“ never eat such things in an after-
“ noon ; he asked me no more, but
“ devoured the whole of them him-
“ self, whilst he was with me, prais-
“ ing them all the time.”

She

She paid me the compliment to say, that she often wished him away, as she expected me ; but she could not get rid of him, and he kept teasing her the whole evening. “ Often would he “ break out into fits of ecstacy, squeez- “ ing my hand,” says she, “ or pressing “ my knees, with, ‘ Thou dear little “ charming creature!’ every limb of “ him in motion—and then to the “ olives again, with, ‘ They are very “ fine fruit—I brought them purely for “ your own eating.’ He should have “ said *his own* ; for, as I observed be- “ fore, he devoured the whole of “ them. At last,” says Miss Slash’em, “ I heard some one coming up stairs,” for her apartment communicated with the passage, and that with the street ; and the Mayor was exceedingly alarm- ed lest he should be discovered : “ for “ he told me,” continued she, “ that “ if his coming to me was known to “ his wife, he should never hear the “ last

“last of it.” He tried to get under the bed. Miss Slash’em had but one room, and the bed stood at the farther end of it. “He tried,” says she, “to
“get under the bed, but his belly was
“too big, and it was impracticable.
“I then pointed to a small closet, and
“hurried him into it; but it was so
“shallow, that the door would not
“shut close, and he was under the
“necessity of standing tiptoe, and
“holding it to. Having thus concealed him, I opened the chamber-door to a person that knocked, conceiving it to be you, but I was disappointed; it was a woman tolerably well dressed, about the age of
“forty, and in corpulency pretty
“nearly as big as the Mayor; her
“face was as red as the gills of a turkey-cock, and she seemed to be out of
“breath with climbing the stairs.
“She asked, if my name was *Slash’em*,
“and on my telling her it was, apologized
“logified

“logised for the abrupt visit she had
 “made me, but that her peace of
 “mind was at stake, and she hoped I
 “would excuse it. She said her name
 “was *Girkin*.—I was a good deal
 “alarmed at this, as I feared a dis-
 “covery, and dreaded the conse-
 “quences, for she seemed to be a vio-
 “lent one. ‘Miss Slash’em,’ says
 “Mrs. Girkin, throwing herself into
 “a great armed chair, ‘have you seen
 ‘my husband lately?’ Madam,” re-
 plied I, “I am a stranger to your hus-
 “band, and should not know him was
 “I to see him. ‘Then, you are
 ‘greatly belied,’ says she, ‘for I un-
 ‘derstand he visits this house often.’
 “If that be the case,” returned I, “his
 “visits must be to some person below,
 “or above, for the house is full of
 “lodgers—it cannot be to *me*. ‘I
 ‘beg your pardon,’ says she, ‘if I
 ‘do you wrong; but you must know,
 ‘Miss Slash’em, my husband, Mr.
 ‘Girkin—

‘ Girkin—that is Mr. Mayor, though
‘ an old man, is a very wicked old
‘ man ; nothing that wears a cap can
‘ escape him ; I can’t keep a maid ser-
‘ vant for him ; he is always pulling
‘ and hauling them about ; and all to
‘ no purpose ; if you knew as much
‘ as I know, you’d be of my way of
‘ thinking ; there is not a trull that
‘ comes into the shop for a halfpenny-
‘ worth of vinegar, or a farthing’s-
‘ worth of matches, that he is not leer-
‘ ing at, and to his *ternal* disgrace.
‘ He is a *gentleman*, Miss Slash’em, a
‘ justice of the king’s peace, and a man
‘ of *dignity* ; and he owes it all to me ;
‘ for, if I had not insisted upon his
‘ taking up his freedom, he would
‘ not have been Mayor of Win-
‘ chester now ; nor should we ever
‘ have been respected as we are : but
‘ I’ll expose the wretch, I’ll let the cor-
‘ poration know—they take him to be
‘ a man of sense ; but, between you
‘ and me, there is not a greater fool
‘ under

‘ under heaven.—When there is any
‘ thing in the *justicing* way going on,
‘ I am always obliged to help out;
‘ but I would not have him know I
‘ said so on any account, for we may
‘ as well keep peace at home, if one
‘ can; that makes me keep it a secret;
‘ and I look upon you, Miss Slash’em,
‘ to be a lady of too much honour to
‘ tell it again.’ I told her, she might
“ rely upon me, that nothing she had
“ said should transpire. At this mo-
“ ment the olive bottle struck her eye,
“ as it stood upon the mantle-piece.
“ She took hold of it, said ‘ she knew
‘ that bottle, and he must have been
‘ with me this afternoon, for that the
‘ bottle came from her shop, and that
‘ within these two hours; as the ham-
‘ per that contained them was just
‘ brought to their house, and had
‘ scarce been opened; so that I am
‘ sure I am right, and doubt whether
‘ he is not concealed some where in

“ the room now ; casting her eyes
“ round the chamber.—I assured her
“ it was all conjecture. ‘ Don’t dis-
“ semble, Miss Slash’em,’ says she, red-
“ dening with anger, ‘ don’t tell me a
“ lie ; it’s a shame for any woman to
“ encourage another woman’s hus-
“ band, as you have done mine.
“ Mr. Girkin is a poor mean-spirited
“ wretch, or he’d be above conde-
“ scending to come into the lodgings
“ of a vagabond actresses and strolling
“ strumpet.’ I desired her, if she did
“ not know how to behave herself, to
“ leave my room ; for I could not
“ suffer myself to be insulted to my
“ face. At this she grew more angry
“ still, abused her husband in the
“ grossest terms, calling me a preva-
“ ricating hussy—said, that strolling
“ players were a nuisance to every
“ place they came into—and that she
“ would take care to have us all sent to
“ prison : in short, she stormed so
“ loud,

“ loud, and made such a riot as brought
 “ up the family from below. They
 “ endeavoured to pacify her, but all
 “ to no purpose: she was told, she
 “ said, he came into the house but a
 “ little before her, and, from the olive
 “ bottle, she was sure he was not far
 “ off at that moment. Mr. Girkin
 “ hearing this, and endeavouring, by
 “ rising higher on his toes, to pull the
 “ closet door closer, lost his equili-
 “ brium, and tumbled forward right
 “ into the room, throwing down a
 “ chair on which a chamber-pot stood,
 “ which the ladies had, during this
 “ conversation, made use of, and broke
 “ it into a thousand pieces. At this
 “ accident, she got up in the utmost
 “ fury;” cried, ‘ now the murder’s
 ‘ out:’ she kicked him several times,
 “ and gave her tongue full play. ‘ A
 ‘ pretty figure, truly,’ says she, ‘ for
 ‘ the mayor of a town! Ar’n’t you
 ‘ *ashamed*, you sneaking fool—to see

‘ yourself so exposed? Is this your
‘ *dignity*?—What will the corporation
‘ say? for I’ll take care to have it
‘ known throughout the city.—Is this
‘ the return I’m to have, for all my
‘ pains to make a *gentleman* of you?’—
“ Not a word could she get from
“ him; at which she picked up his
“ hat with one hand, and his cane
“ with the other, and laid on upon
“ him with both, so unmercifully,
“ that the poor hen-pecked devil could
“ escape only by flight. He made the
“ best of his way down the stairs, and
“ she after him, and I thus got rid of
“ my company altogether.”

Miss Slash’em asked me, if I had heard of it from any one but her.
“ Not so particularly,” replied I, “ as
“ you have related it; but the greater
“ part of the story is in every one’s
“ mouth, and his worship is so much
“ laughed at, that he dare not shew
“ his face abroad. There is a variety
“ of

“ of tales respecting it, One is, that
“ he was found in bed with you ; an-
“ other, that you concealed him in the
“ bed ; another, that Mrs. Girkin
“ threw the chamber-pot at his head ;
“ another, that he was not discovered
“ at all, but made his escape out of a
“ back-window upon a shed beneath
“ it ; and as stories never lose by carry-
“ ing, it is said, that his weight car-
“ ried him through that shed, and that
“ he fell right into a water-tub below.
“ In short, there are always as many
“ stories as there are persons to tell it ;
“ for so happy are most people at in-
“ vention, that they generally add
“ some little of their own ; so that if
“ you hear a story at a tenth or twelfth
“ hand, the spurious tale bears no re-
“ semblance to its original.—But the
“ worst story, my dear Biddy,” says
I, “ is, that an order is come down
“ this morning from the mayor, not
“ to perform any more under the peril

" of commitment. I have no doubt
" but it's Mrs. Girkin's doings, but
" that's of little consequence to us.
" The manager is gone to the mayor
" to see what can be done; and if his
" application proves ineffectual, we
" must pack up and be gone."

C H A P. X.

*Quits the Profession of a Player, and
turns Author. Leaves the Kingdom.*

NOTHING would do; the Mayor told our manager, that is to say, Mrs. Girkin told him for her husband, that he had tried us, and found we were a parcel of idle, noisy vagrants, and would not suffer us to perform any more, and that we must troop off. As there was no alternative, it was proposed to move to the Devizes; with respect to myself, as I had played the fool too long, I resolved to quit them. I was master of more than twenty pounds, and determined to go for London, where I might have a chance of once more seeing Miss Wildman. I accordingly communicated my intentions to the manager, took my leave

of Miss Slash'em, wished them better success at the next place, and in a day or two arrived in the metropolis.

I took a lodging in a cheap part of the town, and before I settled upon any plan, I went into the neighbourhood of Berkeley Square, enquired for the family of the Wildmans, and was informed, that Mr. Wildman had left his house three years ago, and retired to his seat in the north, and that his daughter, it was reported, was since married to a foreign gentleman. I don't know that any thing hurt me more for the present moment; I was for tearing off her ring, which had been constantly on my finger ever since I had received it; but, on reflection, was led to hope, that this report, as thousands of others are, was groundless, and it would be folly to act rashly, and wiser to rest contented, till I had an opportunity of being better informed.

Tired

Tired with a life of servitude, and being under the controul of any one, I resolved to continue my own master as long as I could ; I therefore determined to turn author ; but as my purse was not very deep, and it was expensive living in London, I could not wait for the completion of any elaborate or voluminous work, but found it necessary to write for the present moment, and turn my thoughts to the temporary matter of the day. Besides, however enabled I might have been to have waited till I could have completed some work of credit, I found myself disinclined, from the poor encouragement authors meet with. Elaborate performances are encouraged, only as the sciences, which is in an inverse ratio to their utility. An operadancer will gain more money annually than all the professors of a university together, and the wages of an expert hair-dresser, or a good cook, will

double those of a preceptor, let that preceptor be who he will. Politics, then, was my theme, and as I found it was the temper of the times to rail at administration, right or wrong; I set out upon the same principle: I accordingly wrote a paper in opposition to government, arraigned the conduct of the First Lord of the Treasury, shewed, in a variety of arguments, that he was hastening the downfall of this nation, when, in fact, I thought the contrary; and when I had completed it, I entitled it *the Flogger*. Having copied it fair, and in a very legible hand, I read it over to myself twenty times, and was so well satisfied with my production, that I concluded I should not only get a great deal of money by it, but should raise my reputation as an author.

I carried it to the little libeller, who lived then in Piccadilly, but now manufactures a newspaper, and wished him

him to become the purchaser, telling him I could furnish him with such a paper two or three times a week. "And what am I to do with it?" says he, running his eyes hastily over the first half sheet; "publish it," says I, "if you think proper."—No, no," says he, "it will not do to publish, it is not scurrilous enough for *me* to have any thing to do with it.—Politics," continues he, "is a dry dull subject, and never will go down without a great deal of virulence." I told him, if he would have patience to go through with it, he would find that I had handled the minister rather severely.—"*Rather* severely!" retorts he; "I must have libel in every line. Strange as you may think the declaration, argument will not do now-a-days——reason is out of the question.—Was a party pamphlet wrote now by the pen of a Sydney or a Temple, if it contained nothing

“ but argument and reason, it would
“ not sell enough to pay paper and
“ print; but, put reason, argu-
“ ment, sense, out of the question,
“ fill it with invective, libel, and trea-
“ son, and every one will buy it.”—
“ But such a publication,” replied I,
“ would be dangerous, and subject the
“ publisher to the severest penalties.”
—“ Dangerous?” returns he, “ I know
“ that very well, but there’s nothing
“ to be done in our way without dan-
“ ger. The literary age is past and
“ gone; and, if it was not for New-
“ gate, pillory, and the like, a book-
“ seller now would hardly get bread
“ to eat: no, no, friend, you must
“ never set up for an author, if you’re
“ afraid of your ears;—I have made,
“ thank God, a pretty snug fortune,
“ but it was not without a great deal
“ of danger.” In short, I found no-
thing was to be done with him; of
course left him, and applied to ano-
ther,

ther, a man not quite so violent as the last; he desired me to leave it till the next morning, and he would then give me an answer.—I called as he directed me, and was told it would not suit him, for there was nothing more in it than a man might read every day in the newspapers at little or no expence. In short, that I had taken the wrong side of the question, and should only get into the pillory for my pains.

As I was convinced that standing in a pillory was the readiest way to get pensioned *, it did not discourage me; I returned to my lodging, wrote it afresh, and threw as much libel into it as the little libeller had recommended; I carried it to him again, but I could not persuade him to look at it. Thus distressed, I took it to a third, and on reading some few lines, he discovered enough to tell me, that he valued his

* Dr. S ——— was so punished for a libel,
quiet

quiet at too great a rate to embark in faction and treason, and that if I was wise, I would put it into the fire.

What to do now I could not tell. I took it to an obscure printer, who I knew would print anything for money: he read it, and told me, if I could find any one to publish it, he was sure it would have a rapid sale; for that he had not seen more libel and treason in so small a compass for a long time. I was convinced I had steered clear of the last; and as to the first, I thought little about it. I asked him if he would print it for me, and what it would cost: he told me it would make a sheet and a half in small folio, which would sell for three-pence, and that five hundred of them would cost about two guineas, which, if sold, would produce four pounds ten shillings. I resolved to run the risk of this sum; and as parliament was sitting, determined to be the seller of them myself. He told me he could

could keep the press standing, and if I found a demand for them, a second five hundred would not cost me above twenty-seven shillings. He said he had a stall in a very great thoroughfare, where I might say they were to be had; and he would recommend me a poor decrepid old woman to sell them, whom no one would think it worth while to trouble upon the occasion; that I might give her her story; and she might acknowledge herself to be both author and printer; that I need not be seen in the business, but that I might call as another customer, two or three times a day, and take her money as she sold them; and that the customary allowance I must make to the trade, was any bookseller to be the publisher, would be sufficient to pay every expence; and at the same time I should be certain of receiving my money, which might not be the case if I put them out of my own hands. “ Besides,”

“ fides,” continues he, “ you are not
 “ aware of the frauds of these men.
 “ If you give a bookseller a work to
 “ get printed, and conclude upon an
 “ edition of five hundred; they will
 “ order seven hundred and fifty, or
 “ perhaps more, to be printed, and
 “ call all above five hundred their
 “ own, sell all these their own first,
 “ and account with you for the re-
 “ mainder. I knew a dignitary of the
 “ church, whose sermon, preached
 “ before the House of Commons, was
 “ ordered to be printed; a certain
 “ bookseller in Fleet-street was the
 “ publisher; and from the compli-
 “ ments the author received at court,
 “ and other places, he had every rea-
 “ son to think a great number had
 “ been sold. One says, ‘ I have been
 “ richly entertained, Doctor, with your
 “ sermon this morning.’ Another, ‘ I
 “ have been in close converse with
 “ you all the fore part of this day.’
 “ Another,

“ Another, ‘ I have but just quitted
“ you, and here you are again.’ In
“ short, ten or a dozen friends had
“ given him to understand they had
“ purchased his discourse ; and when
“ he came to settle the account with
“ his bookseller, to his great mortifi-
“ cation and surprise, only three co-
“ pies had been sold.” Rogues, they
say, are honest to each other, but not,
we find, among this tribe of men. A
printer once told me, that two book-
sellers jointly bought a manuscript,
and agreed that one thousand copies
should be printed, and be divided be-
tween them. He who furnished the
paper sent in sufficient for one thou-
sand two hundred and fifty, and re-
quested an extra two hundred and fifty
might be printed off, and laid by for
him, unknown to the other. The
printer, an honest man, made no re-
ply, but determined not to do it.
However, a day or two after, the
other bookseller sent in paper for two
hundred

hundred and fifty copies, and begged a similar favour. He now resolved to profit by these rascals, worked off the two hundred and fifty extra for each, put them both on a footing, and afforded them the secret satisfaction of thinking they had cheated each other.

All this seemed so feasible, that I was bent upon trying the experiment, and being my own publisher. Five hundred were printed, the stall supplied, and the old woman appointed to sell them at threepence each : and that they might fall into the hands of the great, I dressed myself in some old clothes I borrowed of one of the printer's devils, put a patch upon one of my eyes, such a wig upon my head as shoe-blacks in London streets wipe shoes with, and with an apron tucked up before me, I took two hundred of them to the parliament house, and as the members went in or came out, I bawled out, " The Flogger, an' please
" your

“ your honours ; the most spirited
“ paper that ever was published, your
“ honours !” This answered my purpose ; they laughed at the conceit ; some would give me a blow, in good humour, with their canes ; but they most of them purchased ; and instead of three-pence, none gave me less than sixpence ; most of them a shilling, and some few half a crown, for my oddity. In short, I sold them to the last paper, and got upwards of seven pounds for the two hundred. On my return to my shop, I found very few were sold. But the next day the House of Commons did me the favour to establish its sale ; for it was resolved to be the most atrocious libel that ever was published ; and it was moved and carried, that the publisher of the said *Flogger* should be taken into custody, and that the attorney-general should prosecute. This being made public the next day, I took care
to.

to have it in all the newspapers where the said libel was sold ; and such was the demand for it, that we could not print fast enough. Sixteen thousand of them were sold in the first week, by which I cleared upwards of fifty pounds. So much encouragement urged me to proceed ; and the week following, I wrote a second paper, if possible more virulent than the first, and it sold equally well. The King's messengers were after the author and publisher. They called at the stall where these papers were sold ; and the following was the dialogue between the old woman and them ; the old lady drawling out her answers as if she was faint, and almost dying.

First Messenger. Who is the publisher of this paper ?

Old Woman. I am the publisher.

Second Messenger. If you are the publisher, who is the author ?

Old

Old Woman. I am the author too.

First Messenger. (laughing.) If you are both author and publisher, you can certainly tell us who is the printer?

Old Woman. Why, gentlemen, I am all three, author, printer, and publisher.

As they could get nothing more from her, they turned upon their heel, the first messenger crying out, "D-mn you, you old bitch;—We'll take care of *you*."

Old Woman. Heaven blefs your charity, gentlemen; I pray God you would; for I am not able to take *care* of myself.

In fact, this woman did not know the author; for I passed only as a runner between the printer and her. My whole care was to secrete myself, and to take the money from her as fast as she sold them, which I contrived, and was enabled to do, through a variety
of

of disguises; having changed my lodging to a more obscure part of the town, and to a house more suitable to the appearance I made.

So much truth did the little libeller in Piccadilly tell me, and so rich I became by the sale of this paper only, which I published once a week, that in the space of six months, I found myself possessed of five hundred and seventy pounds, and all expences paid: but, during all this time, I was at hide-and-seek. A proclamation had been issued, offering a reward to apprehend me; but, as the Treasury have made a practice lately of not paying such rewards, when called on*, no one paid any regard to it; however, as I found my spirit for writing libels nearly exhausted, and the avidity of the people almost satiated, I dropped the publica-

* The case of Wheble the bookseller verifies this assertion.

tion ; and that the matter, if possible, might blow over, I thought it best to get out of the way, and therefore took a trip to the Continent.

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.

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